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Ecuador
Post Report

Preface

Ecuador is not a large country, but it offers an amazing variety of climates, customs, and cultures. The high, wide Andean plateau which dominates the country has been both a highway and a resting place for the Incan, Spanish, and mestizo civilizations which have shaped the nation's history. The lowland Amazonian jungle east of the mountains, home of the Auca and Jivaro Indians, is also the location of rough oil-boom towns; the Pacific coastal plain to the west of the Andes is a land of tropical plantations and bustling port cities. Six hundred miles from the coast lie the Galapagos, a chain of volcanic islands which are home to unique species of wildlife and a small number of islanders living from the tourist trade.

Quito is a city of sun and sky, set in agricultural highlands and surrounded by high mountains and snowcapped volcanoes. With its balance of equatorial sunshine and mountain chill, the climate varies little throughout the year. Some newcomers find it difficult to adjust to the thin air and burning sun at an altitude of 9,300 feet; from time to time, almost everyone feels far removed from the rest of the world.

Guayaquil is a complete contrast to the capital. It is a busy, noisy town; the natives (guayaquilenos) are both more aggressive and more openhanded than the reserved inhabitants of the Sierra. Like most port towns, Guayaquil is a center of commerce, a place where the shrewd can make a fortune or can capture and direct enough of the city's rough energy to make a successful political career. This is especially so since the late 1970s, when the Ecuadorean military ceded power to a re-established system of democratic, popularly elected government.

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This is the official post report prepared by the post. The information contained herein is directed to official US Government employees and their families. Any other information concerning the facts as set forth herein is to be regarded as unofficial information.

Cover: The San Luis religious festival is held in August in Otavalo.

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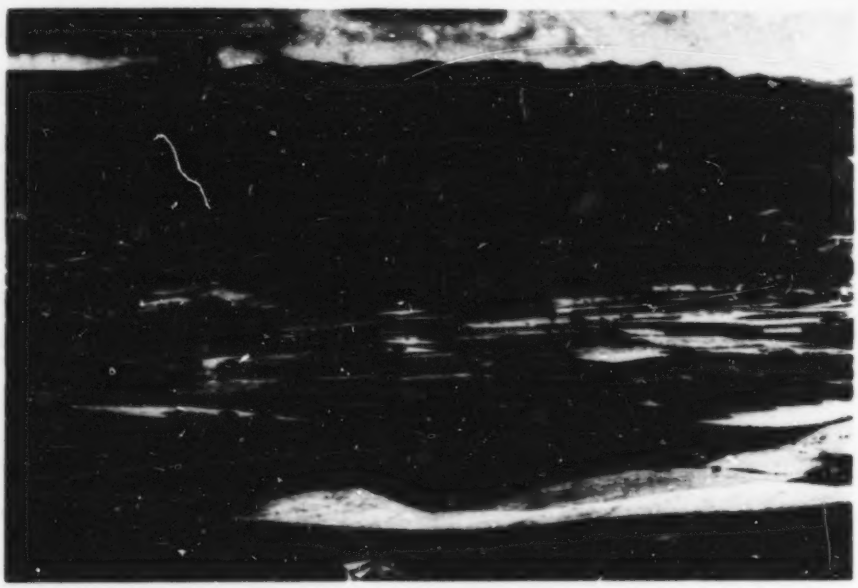
The Host Country

Area, Geography, and Climate

Ecuador straddles the Equator, its namesake, on the west coast of South America, almost 3,000 miles due south of Washington, DC. It is roughly the size of Colorado. Two north-south ranges of the Andes cut the country into three distinct sections: the Costa, a belt of tropical lowlands 10–100 miles wide along the Pacific coast, with Guayaquil the major city; the Sierra, a highland plateau 3,000–10,000 feet high where Quito is located; and the Oriente, jungle lowlands east of the Andes which make up about half the country's area. In addition, the Galapagos Islands lie 640 miles off the coast. The five larger and nine smaller islands are inhabited by some 2,400 people and the amazing variety of wildlife which Charles Darwin studied in 1836.



The Costa is a rich agricultural belt where most of Ecuador's tropical export crops are grown.

Ecuador claims an additional 100,000 square miles of territory in the Oriente, an area which includes navigable tributaries of the Amazon River. This territory was lost to Peru under the 1942 Rio Protocol of Peace, Friendship, and Boundaries, which the Ecuadorean people and Government have never fully accepted (the national motto proclaims, "Ecuador was, is, and will be an Amazonian nation"). Revising the treaty is one of the government's foremost foreign policy objectives. Recent efforts to settle the dispute have been unsuccessful because of strong nationalistic feelings in both countries; in January 1981, the armed forces of Peru and Ecuador clashed briefly along the disputed southern border area of the Cordillera del Condor.

Most of Ecuador is covered by equatorial forests. The rest is comprised of cultivated agricultural areas, some arid scrubland near the coast, and barren mountain ranges with 22 peaks over 14,000 feet. These peaks include Chimborazo (20,561 ft.) and Cotopaxi, which is the highest active volcano in the world (19,347 ft.) and can be seen from Quito on a clear day. On the Pacific slope the principal rivers are the Esmeraldas and the Guayas. Eastern Ecuador is part of the Amazon watershed, chiefly through the Napo and Pastaza Rivers, but none of the Amazon tributaries in Ecuador is navigable by oceangoing vessels.

Because of variations in altitude, Ecuador has a wide range of climates. The lowlands are generally hot and humid, but temperatures on the coast are moderated by the Humboldt Current to a range of 65°F–90°F. Temperatures in the Sierra are generally cool, ranging from 35°F to 75°F. Because of the altitude and rarified air, temperature in the direct sun can reach 85°F–90°F at midday. In the evenings it can range from pleasantly cool to very chilly. Although the tallest mountains are always snowcapped, it never snows in the inhabited altitudes, although it hails occasionally. During the Sierra dry season, from June through September, gusty winds are common.

The temperature pattern rarely changes from day to day or month to month; mornings are cool and crisp, and midday is agreeably warm unless skies are overcast. Fog and mist may occur in the morning or during the evenings as low-lying clouds spill over the sides of the valley. Since Quito is such a short distance from the Equator, the times of sunrise and sunset vary only slightly from 6 am and 6 pm. Average annual rainfall in Quito is 50 inches, with 43 inches falling from October through May, and 7 inches from June through September. Relative humidity averages 75%.

Occasional tremors are registered in the area; these may or may not be perceptible to residents. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are infrequent—Cotopaxi last erupted 35 years ago—although they do remain a possibility.

Population

Ecuador's 1981 population was about 8,644,000: 40% mestizo, 40% Indian, 10% white, 5% black, and 5% Oriental and others. About half of the population lives in the Costa, where the principal group is mestizo. The average annual population growth rate is 3.4%.

The term "mestizo" has a cultural significance in the Sierra. It is not simply a mixture of blood. An Indian who leaves his or her community, abandoning traditional dress, tribal ties, and native language, loses his or her Indian identity and is called a "mestizo."

Spanish is the official language, but Quichua, the language of the Incas, is still spoken by Indians constituting about one-third of the inhabitants. In the Oriente, several indigenous languages and dialects survive; some have no identifiable link with any recognized language families.

Most of the population is Roman Catholic, though Protestant missionaries have been active in the country since the turn of the century. Religious freedom is observed.

Primary education is compulsory. An estimated 75% of the population is literate. Both Catholic and Protestant missionaries have worked with indigenous peoples of the Oriente, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education. Public and private university enrollment is large, although many students do not complete their studies. An extensive adult literacy program is underway.

Public Institutions

Historically, Ecuadorean politics have been highly personalistic. For many years political power alternated between the Liberal and Conservative Parties, identified respectively with the Coast and the Sierra. But since the early 1930s other political organizations, especially the Velasquista movement, have played significant roles. After the 1925–48 period of political turbulence (during which none of the chiefs of state was able to complete his term of office) came 12 years of relative stability, during which three presidents served out their constitutional terms.

The 1960s were marked by political turmoil, and several irregular changes of government occurred. Dr. Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra was elected to an unprecedented fifth term in popular elections in 1968. In 1970 he suspended the constitution and ruled by decree until overthrown by the armed forces in February 1972. A military government was established which ruled in one form or another until August 10, 1979, when the armed forces turned power over to the elected civilian government of President Jaime Roldos Aguilera, a young populist leader from Guayaquil. President Roldos was killed in an airplane crash on May 24, 1981. Vice President Dr. Osvaldo Hurtado Larrea assumed power in an orderly transition. A respected development economist, Dr. Hurtado faced the difficult task of consolidating his own political base in a time when the country's various political figures had begun to jockey for position for the 1984 presidential election.

Major political parties include the Concentration of Popular Forces (populist); the Alfarist Radical Front (populist); the Conservative Party (center right); the Liberal Party (center right); the Democratic Left (center left); Popular Democracy (center left); the People, Change, and Democracy Party (center left); the Democratic Party (center); and the Democratic Popular Movement (Maoist Communist).

The main general labor organizations are the Ecuadorean Confederation of Free Labor Organizations (CEOSL—independent); the Ecuadorean Workers Confederation (CTE—Communist); and the Ecuadorean Confederation of Class Organizations (CEDOC), which split into two factions—one Christian Democrat and the other Communist. Trade unions include the National Teachers' Union (UNE) and the National Drivers' Federation.

Arts, Science, and Education

Many resident and visiting artists frequently have exhibits in private and public galleries. The National Dance Company performs modern ballets, some of which originated from traditional dance forms. The National Symphony has expanded and improved in recent years and features both Ecuadoreans and members of the foreign community. The National Conservatory and the Institute of Music offer instruction at all levels. Traditional music is very much alive in Quito, and may be heard both at concert presentations and at late-night "penas," which are a relatively simple and inexpensive type of nightclub.

Indian wood carvings and wool cloth and rugs woven in Inca designs have been successfully commercialized. Interest and activity in preserving and renovating some of the colonial era buildings have increased, especially since Quito's colonial center was declared a historical area, subject to strict zoning laws.

An increase in scientific activity is also underway in Ecuador. The National Atomic Energy Commission is doing more extensive research with radioisotopes, particularly in medicine and agriculture. Several experimental agricultural stations are active. The Central University and the National Polytechnic School have research labs. Other research is being conducted in cancer, pharmaceuticals, astronomy, and linguistics. The Central Bank of Ecuador has underwritten extensive archeological activities, and discoveries from these investigations are displayed in the bank's museum.

Commerce and Industry

Ecuador became an oil exporter in 1972, but it remains a largely agricultural country.

Although agriculture employs about half of the population, petroleum products from fields in the eastern jungle region provide two-thirds of Ecuador's annual export earnings. A large portion of the revenues from petroleum exports is devoted to development projects such as the construction of roads, electric power plants, hospitals, educational facilities, and other projects designed to improve the economic and social structure of the nation. Much remains to be done on all fronts.

Oil income has been sporadic over the years, due to problems in marketing and difficulties between the government and the US companies that developed the petroleum industry. In mid-1977 Gulf agreed to sell its equity interests in petroleum production facilities to CEPE, the state oil corporation. Texaco remains in Ecuador, producing more than 95% of the country's output, which in 1981 averaged more then 200,000 barrels per day.

Agriculture, fishing, and forestry still employ more than half of Ecuador's labor force. These sectors supplied about 13% of its gross domestic product in 1980 and brought in almost all of its nonpetroleum export earnings. Formerly the world's leading exporter of bananas, Ecuador has diversified to include cocoa and coffee among its export crops. Sugar

exports were important in the early 1970s but have now fallen to insignificant levels. Animal husbandry is growing and improving in the nation, but the quantity and quality of the yields of meat and milk still leave much to be desired.

Ecuador is also an exporter of fresh, frozen, and canned tuna, shrimp, and other sea products. The development of shrimp farming has made Ecuador the world's leading exporter of cultivated shrimp; Ecuador's shrimp exports are four times as important as its exports of tuna. Government planning gives priority to development of commercial fishing, and work is gradually proceeding on construction and modernization of ports and other facilities. The country claims sovereignty over waters within 200 miles both of its Pacific coast and the Galapagos Islands. Over the past two decades this has led to a policy dispute with the US concerning tuna, which the US considers to be a migratory species. From time to time American tuna boats have been seized and fined. In late 1980 the US Government imposed an embargo on Ecuadorean exports of tuna to the United States.

Other industries in Ecuador are small and geared mainly to supplying the domestic market with light industrial and consumer goods such as construction materials, paints, textiles, some household appliances, plastics, canned goods, and pharmaceuticals. Assembly of automobiles and buses is limited. The agreements of the Andean Pact assigned to Ecuador the production of various petrochemicals, automotive vehicles, and metal-working machinery, but to date progress in implementing these agreements has been slow. Industrial development in Ecuador has been heavily dependent on investment and loans from abroad.

With the development of the petroleum industry, Ecuador's imports grew phenomenally, often doubling from year to year. Import curbs, including high tariffs and requirements for advance payments, were instituted in the mid-1970s and many of these are still in force. The import of "luxury goods" or of goods competing with local production is restricted. In some cases it is prohibited entirely; smuggling flourishes, however.

Inflation has increased in recent years, but it still remains low by Latin American standards. The increase in the government consumer price index, based on a "market basket" of consumer items, was calculated to be 13.7% in 1980 (country-wide) and 16%–17% in 1981, despite a doubling of the minimum salary between 1979 and 1980 and government-decreed increases in the prices of fuel and some basic consumer items. In 1981, the ceiling on interest rates for local borrowing remained at 12%–15%, which contributed to a slowdown in domestic financial activity and an acceleration in capital flight; after some years of relative stability, the free market rate of the Ecuadorean sucre declined some 20% to about S/44 = US$1. Ecuador's official exchange rate, which had remained at S/25 = US$1 since 1970, was devalued to S/33 = US$1 on May 13, 1982.

Transportation

Automobiles

With certain restrictions, the Ecuadorean Government permits each US Government employee to import a car. Only one car may be imported duty free during a 2-year tour. At the end of 2 years, the car may be sold and another imported duty free. Most personnel find an automobile to be essential. **See also** Customs, Duties, and Passage.

Most American and foreign cars can be serviced in Quito and Guayaquil. Dealers generally do not carry large inventories of spare parts and often these must be imported, a process subject to lengthy customs delays even though diplomatic personnel are not assessed customs duty. Although American Motors/Jeep does have a local representative, the stock of parts is limited. General Motors and Ford vehicles are popular in Ecuador.

City streets and principal intercity highways are reasonably well maintained, and many types of vehicles are used in Ecuador. These range from the four-cylinder "Andino," a utility vehicle assembled here, to the largest and most powerful luxury cars. Automatic transmissions present no problems. Many Mission personnel have compact or medium-sized cars. Personnel with low-built cars have had problems when exploring remote areas. Heavy-duty shocks and suspensions are recommended. Radial tires, including steel-belted radials, are generally not recommended for use on rough roads.

Although an eight-cylinder car is useful at Quito's altitude and on steep mountain roads, the government has forbidden importation of these except for small jeep-type utility vehicles, light four-wheel-drive trucks, and passenger vans. If you expect to explore remote areas, hunt, or fish, bring a jeep or similar four-wheel-drive vehicle. High road clearance and maneuverability are essential, and a good range of gears, heavy-duty tires, springs, shock absorbers, and a roll bar are recommended. An oversized radiator is a desirable safety feature; fog lights may be useful. The Embassy has a four-wheel-drive vehicle which may be rented for recreational use.

Bring a new car or one in good condition. The resale market for all types and sizes of automobiles is good.

If you are unable to disconnect the catalytic converter in a car designed to take only unleaded gasoline, it is possible to have the car adapted at a local garage. The premium (92 octane) gasoline sold in Ecuador is similar to regular gas in the US and costs the equivalent of 45¢ a gallon. Also available is a low octane regular costing 35¢ a gallon.

Diplomatic officers must pay 250 sucres for new license plates. If you have a valid US drivers license, no driving test is required. Four 1" x 1" photographs are necessary. These photographs must be submitted to the Foreign Ministry by the Embassy within 24 hours of arrival. Though you may have them taken locally, it is best to bring them with you.

Nondiplomatic personnel pay 150 sucres (about $5) for license plates initially and 150 sucres per year thereafter. They also must present four photographs.

Each person obtaining a drivers license must state his or her blood type. If necessary, you may have your blood typed by a local medical laboratory.

Third-party liability insurance is required for all Mission personnel and must be purchased in Ecuador (the Embassy offers a group insurance plan). Insurance rates in Ecuador are comparable to those in the US. The Embassy strongly advises everyone to maintain collision and comprehensive insurance, which may be purchased in the US or Ecuador. Some US insurance plans will also cover losses sustained while the vehicle is in shipment to Ecuador.

Most city streets are paved, although they are not always in good

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condition. Smaller towns usually have cobblestone or dirt streets. Travel by automobile can be slow and hard; some roads outside the cities are poor and winding. The main roads are the north-south Pan American highway which runs through Quito, the Quito-Guayaquil road via Santo Domingo, and the Quito-Esmeraldas road.

Local

Passenger train service to Guayaquil is available, but slow; even so, the view along this route is spectacular. "Autoferros"—pullman-type buses on rails—are more comfortable and faster than trains. The trip between these two principal cities takes 12 hours.

Regular intercity buses are available, but they are not usually used by Mission personnel. Principal cities have numerous city buses. These are inexpensive (costing 2 sucres, or about 6¢), but they are crowded and often in need of repair. Taxis are plentiful; you can hail a taxi on the street or telephone to the neighborhood "cooperativa" to request one. Fares are generally reasonable, but negotiate the fare before beginning the trip. Even for a foreigner, a 4-mile ride from the Chancery to the airport should cost no more than the equivalent of $2.50.

Regional

Until May 14, 1982, Braniff Airlines served both Quito and Guayaquil with at least one flight a day from Miami. Braniff offered connections through Panama as well, and two Braniff flights a week connected Los Angeles and Quito. Beginning on May 18, 1982, Braniff was replaced by Eastern Airlines as the US flag carrier on most of the southern routes including those between the US and Ecuador. Eastern Airlines service to Ecuador is expected to follow Braniff's pattern.

Mariscal Sucre, Quito's international airport, is about 20 minutes from the Embassy. Ecuador has an international airline (Ecuatoriana) and three domestic airlines (SAETA, SAN, and TAME). Guayaquil is 30 minutes by air from Quito. Scheduled flights are also available to Esmeraldas, Cuenca, Loja, Lago Agrio, Manta, Machala, and the Galapagos. The one-way fare from Quito to any continental Ecuadorean city is between $20 and $30. A round-trip flight from the capital to the Galapagos Islands costs about $350 for persons who are not permanent residents of Ecuador.

Communications

Telephone and Telegraph

International communications are reasonably good from Ecuador. Telephone connections are by satellite. The cost for a person-to-person call to the US varies according to the place called. A person-to-person call placed to any of the Southern States of the US (including those as far north as Delaware and as far west as Louisiana) costs $7.60 for the first 3 minutes, and between $1.40 and $1.75 per additional minute, according to the time of the day and week. Rates for person-to-person calls to other parts of the US are $10 for the first 3 minutes and $2.25 per additional minute. Station-to-station rates are $5.06 plus $1.50–$1.80 per additional minute for the Southern States and $6.73 plus $1.80–$2.21 for other parts of the US. Calls from Ecuador must be placed through an operator, with waits usually ranging from 20 minutes to 2 hours or more; a minimum charge of about $1.75 is collected if the call is not successful after several attempts. Certain telephone exchanges in the US can dial Ecuador directly. Telephone calls placed from the US to Ecuador are considerably less expensive than those placed from Ecuador.

A regular telegram to the US costs S/12.80 (38¢) per word. If sent as a night letter, it will cost half that amount; if sent as an urgent telegram, it will cost double the regular rate. A 20-word telegram costs $3.80 as a night letter, $7.60 as an ordinary telegram, and $15.20 as an urgent telegram.

USIS has a commercial telex line. Its call number is 2329 USICAQ.

Mail and Pouch

Both the Embassy and the Consulate General are served by an Air Force Post Office (APO). Mail is sent and received daily in Quito and twice a week in Guayaquil. APO letter mail takes 2–4 days to and from the US.

A typical Indian folklore dance in one of Ecuador's provinces.

Parcels sent Space Available Mail (SAM) or Priority Air Lift (PAL—$1 extra) take 6–7 days. Parcel size is restricted to 70 pounds maximum, and 100 inches, length and girth combined. Address letters and packages sent APO as follows:

(Name)
American Embassy Quito — (Agency)
APO Miami 34039

(Name)
Guayaquil — American Consulate General
APO Miami 34039

International airmail is not as dependable or inexpensive as APO. Any items sent by international mail should be addressed to American Embassy, Quito, Ecuador, or to American Consulate General, Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Packages arriving by international parcel post will be inspected and duties charged. The same is true of unaccompanied airfreight. Although diplomats accredited to Ecuador can be exempted from these duties, the procedure for obtaining a free-entry decree routinely takes up to 1 month.

Radio and TV

Quito has a wide range of AM radio stations, primarily of Latin American and American popular music. Good FM radio stations broadcast here, with about 10 broadcasting in stereo. The FM service of HCJB, a missionary-run broadcasting organization, features light classical music and offers nightly news broadcasts in English. Five TV channels transmit in color, with broadcasts from 7 am to midnight. Programs are in Spanish and include dubbed versions of many US series, a wide variety of motion pictures, and programs produced throughout Latin America.

Shortwave reception is usually good. On the 19-meter band, US Armed Forces Radio carries news updates from several US networks, including National Public Radio. Both Voice of America and BBC can be received clearly.

Ham radio operators should bring their equipment, since the Ecuadorean Government issues licenses to those with a valid American license.

Colonial and modern architecture provide contrast in Quito.

Newspapers, Magazines, and Technical Journals

Quito has two independent morning newspapers, *El Comercio* and *El Tiempo*, and two afternoon papers, *Ultimas Noticias* and *El Periodico del Mediodia*. Newspapers from Guayaquil, such as *El Universo* and *El Telegrafo*, are also sold in Quito. Newspapers are sold on the streets and in neighborhood stores and sometimes can be delivered to the home.

The Latin American edition of the *Miami Herald* is flown to Quito daily and can be bought at the airport and in major hotels for about $1 a copy. US magazines and newspapers sent to the APO address arrive promptly.

The Latin American editions of *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines are available weekly at about $1.75. Other popular magazines from the US, France, Spain, and Germany are also available. The Binational Centers in Guayaquil and Cuenca subscribe to numerous English-language periodicals and have libraries of thousands of fiction and nonfiction English-language books; the Embassy has a USIS reference library, but it is a noncirculating library. The British-American Women's Club operates a small rental library. An area is set aside in the Embassy's General Services Section for the informal exchange of books, mainly in paperback. Major hotels carry some paperback books. Several bookstores have limited stocks of books in English, which are sold at high prices.

Records of US and European popular music are increasingly popular

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and available. Those produced under license in Ecuador are relatively inexpensive (about $5), but imported records are costly. Selections of classical music are limited; recordings of Ecuadorean and Latin American popular and folk music are abundant, inexpensive, and of relatively good quality.

Several popular clubs offer a wide selection of VTR recordings of motion pictures, sports events, and television programs taped in the United States. The Sony Beta format is the most widely used, although VHS tapes are also available.

Health and Medicine

Medical Facilities

An American Family Nurse Practitioner is assigned to the Embassy and is assisted by a full-time Foreign Service nurse. They maintain a well-equipped clinic available to all US Government employees and their dependents. The regional medical officer from Lima visits Quito and Guayaquil regularly for consultations.

A wide range of services is available, including immunizations required by the Department of State. The nurse gives suggestions on home hygiene procedures, including food handling, and works closely with post medical consultants and the regional medical officer.

Obtain a yellow fever immunization in the United States before traveling to Ecuador; also have your blood typed, since this information will be needed at post upon arrival.

Bring a supply of the medicines and vitamins you usually take. Remember to hand-carry any special prescription drugs you require, since even your airfreight may take weeks to clear customs. Bring a 6–12 month supply of any special medication, and arrange to reorder from the US.

Upon arrival you will receive a health and medical information booklet with names of physicians and dentists practicing in Quito. Adequate hospitals and medical laboratories are available. The most highly recommended is Voz Andes Hospital, operated by American missionaries. Personnel requiring unusual treatment or major surgery are usually sent to the Gorgas military hospital in Panama.

Orthopedic disabilities can be treated by an American-trained specialist. Physical therapists practice in Quito.

Have teeth and eyes checked and necessary work completed before you leave the US. Dental care is the weakest link in available health care services. Routine dental work can be done at post, but it is highly recommended that any major dental work (crowns and root canals, for example) be completed in the US. Ecuador has no recommended orthodontists.

Competent optometrists can fill prescriptions, but bring extra glasses with you. If any type of corrective lens is required, bring a copy of the prescription and leave a copy with your own doctor. Glasses and contact lenses can be ordered in Quito, and several families have found them satisfactory. Bring contact lens solutions.

Bring an extra pair of sunglasses, because good ones are expensive. Skin creams and lotions are useful, especially in the Sierra.

Guayaquil. Routine medical problems, emergencies, and some specialized conditions can be handled by local physicians, dentists, orthodontists, and hospitals. Many physicians speak some English and some have had courses in the US. Most Americans use the Clinica Kennedy, a small, well-equipped private hospital, but many serious cases are evacuated to Panama or the US. A contract nurse at the Consulate General is on duty three afternoons a week.

Community Health

Quito has a central sewage system and garbage is collected regularly in most areas of the city. Even so, sanitation facilities and public health controls are below US standards. Since the water system is subject to leaks and corrosion in the pipes, tapwater is not safe. The Embassy operates a water filtering and purification plant from which most personnel get their potable water.

Most restaurants and food handlers maintain acceptable standards of hygiene, but food from street vendors should generally be avoided.

The altitude can be a problem in Quito. Situated at about 9,300 feet, Quito is the second highest Foreign Service post. At first most people feel some temporary discomfort from the altitude; some may take several months to adjust. Symptoms may include shortness of breath, fitful sleep, need for more than usual sleep, dizziness, headaches, prolonged respiratory infections, and energy loss.

Recuperating from an illness may take longer than at lower altitudes. The Health Unit keeps portable oxygen available for emergencies. Many personnel prefer to take short trips to the coast or to lower altitudes.

Because of the thinness of the air, the equatorial sun is intense. One can be seriously sunburned after only short exposure. Tanning products can be purchased locally, and sunscreens are generally available. A brimmed hat can be bought locally ("Panama" hats are made in Ecuador).

Preventive Measures

A number of diseases are prevalent in Ecuador, including dysentery, intestinal parasites, bronchial and respiratory problems, tuberculosis, hepatitis, typhoid, and diphtheria. Of these, Americans are generally more susceptible to hepatitis and intestinal parasites. Inoculations and use of recommended health practices greatly reduce health risks.

Inoculations for typhoid and paratyphoid are strongly recommended for everyone. Regular injections of gamma globulin are recommended as a preventative against hepatitis. Inoculations for diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus and poliomyelitis are advised for children. Rabies vaccine is available. Yellow fever vaccine is advisable in certain areas of the country, but it is not available in Quito; be sure you receive a yellow fever immunization before arriving.

Whenever tapwater is used for drinking or cooking, it should be boiled for 20 minutes in Quito (because of the altitude) and 10 minutes in Guayaquil. All ice, even that used in alcoholic beverages, should be made from proven potable water. If water is boiled in a pressure cooker, only 3 minutes are required. Plastic containers may be purchased locally to transport purified water from the Embassy plant; an ice machine using the same water is operated at the Chancery.

Soft drinks are generally safe, as is ice cream from reputable producers. All fruits and vegetables eaten without peeling should be soaked for 20 minutes in a Clorox or iodine solution;

those to be peeled should be washed with soap and water. Insecticides and disinfectants should be used as necessary in kitchens and bathrooms against flies, roaches, and germs. Because of the climate and altitude, mosquitoes are not a problem in Quito. Insecticides, disinfectants, and mousetraps, if needed, may be purchased locally.

Whole milk is available but, although pasteurized, continuous safety cannot be assured. Many families use milk from local sources and eat other dairy products without evidence of problems. But, to be absolutely safe, all milk should be home-treated ("pasteurized" or boiled) or powdered milk substituted. Because of the intermittent problems with milk contamination in Quito, boil all nonpowdered milk 20 minutes. If a pressure cooker is used, 3–5 minutes at 15 pounds pressure is sufficient.

Servants should take preemployment medical examinations, and the employer should enforce rigid standards of cleanliness. Establish strict standards for food handling and storage, cooking, washing dishes, and cleaning kitchen equipment. Spot checking helps. Guayaquil has more of the typical tropical-climate problems than does Quito: oppressive heat and humidity, fast food spoilage, insects and mildew.

Employment for Spouses and Dependents

Occasional employment opportunities are available at the US Mission for spouses and dependents of US Government personnel. Nonsecretarial positions at the Mission have been available for limited periods of employment. These jobs may include teaching English, counseling with the Peace Corps, working full- or part-time at the Embassy Individual Purchasing Service, providing services at the APO, or assisting trade missions or conferences. AmEmbassy Quito has a part-time salaried CLO (Community Liaison Office) coordinator, chosen from among the spouses of US Government employees.

Secretarial positions are sometimes available for those willing to accept resident staff appointments and assignment to nonofficer positions in classes FSS–7 and below. Standard secretarial skills are required, and tests for these positions may be arranged at post. Dependents interested in employment at the US Mission should have a complete record of previous employment, especially of Federal service. It may be helpful to correspond with the Embassy personnel officer before arrival at post.

A preemployment medical examination is not required for temporary hire of US citizen dependents. Dependents may be given appointments of up to 3 months' duration pending completion of security clearance. Clearances will be obtained after entrance on duty and are a prerequisite to employment of dependents for more than 3 months.

When funds are available, the Mission operates a summer employment program for teenage dependents, using them in various sections of the Mission for about 2 months. Pay in this program is low.

A number of dependents have been employed as teachers at the US-subsidized Cotopaxi Academy, Colegio Americano, or at Alliance Academy. Employment opportunities vary and generally require teaching credentials. Employment at these institutions does not require working papers from the Government of Ecuador.

Dependents engaged in artistic pursuits such as painting, sculpture, and music have found opportunities to continue their work and occasionally to exhibit.

Apart from the opportunities described above, employment in the local economy is not available to dependents. As of this writing, the Mission has begun conversations with the Ecuadorean Government about the possibility of a reciprocal agreement concerning the employment of spouses and dependents of Mission personnel, but it is too early to predict the outcome of these discussions.

All dependents considering employment here must obtain clearance from the Chief of Mission.

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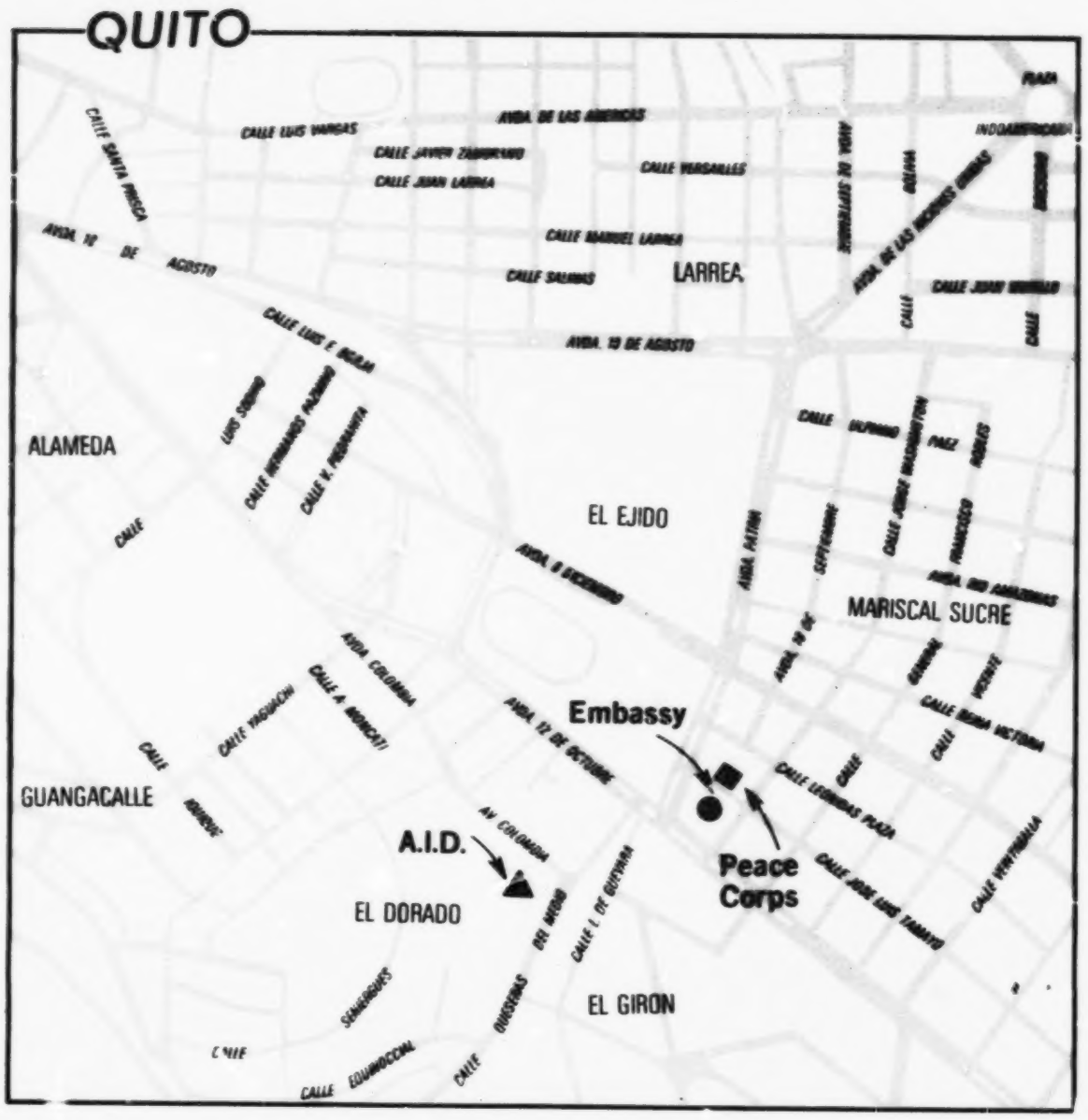

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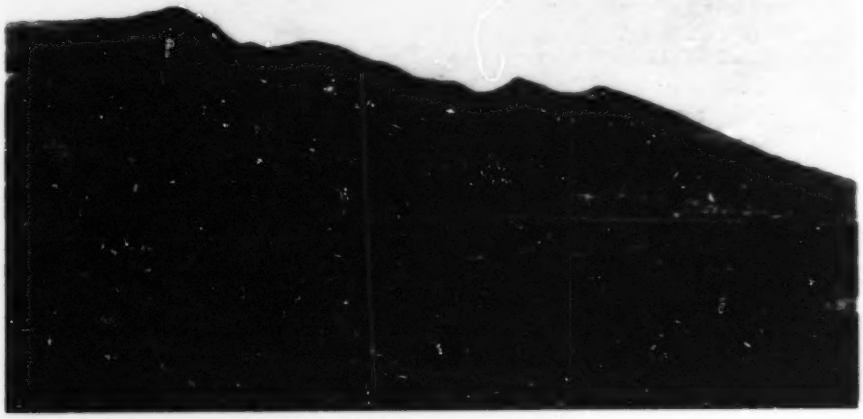
American Embassy

Quito

When Spanish expeditions overwhelmed the Inca Empire, the Inca leader Ruminahui destroyed the city of Quito rather than surrender it to the conquerors. The Spanish built their own settlement, San Francisco de Quito, on the same site at the southern end of Pichincha Valley; it was an easily defensible location bounded by deep ravines and dominated by the smooth round hill now called the Panecillo. The colonial center of Quito has been declared a heritage of mankind ("Patrimonio de la Humanidad") by UNESCO; this heritage is preserved today by zoning laws which forbid the demolition or exterior remodeling of the low, white-washed buildings in the center of the city. The narrow cobblestoned streets of colonial Quito are a pleasure for an unhurried stroll; from the bustle of the shops and the colorful variety of the Ipiales street market, one can walk directly out into broad plazas with meticulously kept parks bounded by churches and public buildings.

In the mid-20th century Quito grew swiftly. Industrial areas and crowded popular barrios developed to the south of the city; to the north, Quito extended up a wide valley bordering the dormant Pichincha Volcano. Originally farmland dotted with villas built in fanciful Spanish, Moorish, or 1930s modern architecture, this area is rapidly becoming Quito's modern center. The US Embassy is located here, close to El Ejido Park and the international-class Hotel Colon. The Rio Amazonas pedestrian mall runs from the park through a modern business center of high-rise office buildings which offer a variety of restaurants, shops, banks, and sidewalk cafes. Further north, the valley is comfortably residential, crossed by wide boulevards and served by modern shopping centers. This is where most of the diplomatic community lives.



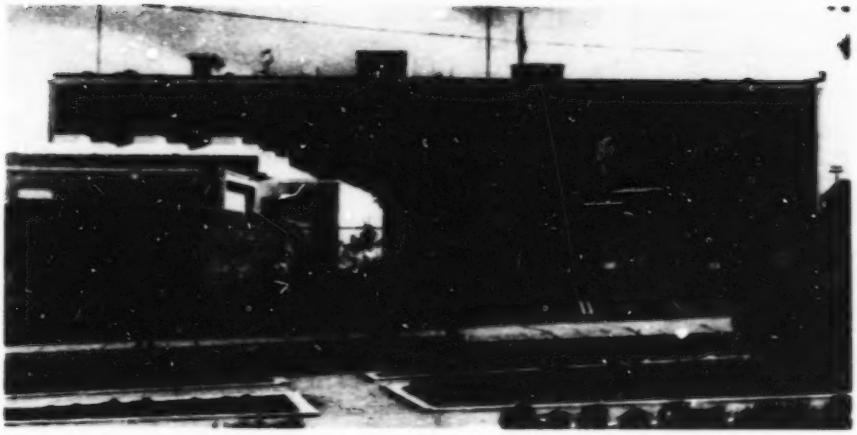
Colonial Quito was built in the easily defensible southern end of Pichincha Valley (above), while modern Quito stretches northward.

The Post and Its Administration

Organization of the US agencies in Quito is typical of the arrangements at most posts. The Embassy provides administrative support for the Peace Corps, the US Information Service (USIS), the Inter-American Geodetic Survey (IAGS), the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Office of the Defense Attache, and the US Military Liaison Office. The security office in the Embassy is responsible for clearing local employees working for all agencies. AID provides its own administrative services, other than personnel security.

The workweek is Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm to 5 pm for all US Government agencies except IAGS.

The Chancery is a modern four-story building at the corner of Avenida Patria and 12 de Octubre (telephone 548–000). It has a commercial library, snackbar, Health Unit, purchasing service, conference room, and auditorium. The Consular Section is located on the Chancery grounds. The Chancery is within easy walking distance of Catholic University, the Hotel Colon, El Ejido Park, and the busy Rio Amazonas pedestrian shopping district.



The US Embassy in Quito is a modern, 4-story building.

USIS offices are on the second floor of the Chancery (telephone 239–260). USIS provides information to the Ecuadorean press; furnishes supplies, tapes, materials, and VOA broadcasts to radio stations; provides programs and information to TV stations; organizes cultural programs of various kinds to promote intercultural understanding; and arranges educational exchanges. USIS also has a small outreach library adjacent to the Chancery and a shared auditorium in the Chancery which is sometimes used for program events.

AID offices are located on Avenida Colombia 1573 and Queseras del Medio (telephone 521–000). AID is cooperating with the Government of Ecuador in the areas of integrated rural and urban development with activities in agriculture, education, health, and housing, in addition to projects in public sector training and alternative sources of energy. Between 1946 and 1981, AID economic assistance in Ecuador totaled $292.1 million.

IAGS has offices in the Instituto Geografico Militar (telephone 239–562). A part of the Defense Mapping Agency, IAGS has worked in Ecuador since 1947. It provides logistic support and technical assistance for topographical surveys of Ecuador and inventories of national physical resources.

FAS is on the second floor of the Chancery (telephone 529–088). Besides reporting on the agricultural situation in Ecuador and promoting the sale of US agricultural products, the agricultural attache provides information on US import regulations affecting pets, foods, and other plant and animal materials going to the US.

DEA (telephone 230–053) and the Department of State Narcotics Control Division (NCD) offices are located in the Previsora Norte building, 10 de Agosto and Rio de Janeiro. NCD (telephone 237–050) provides technical assistance, offers commodity support, and coordinates training for several enforcement agencies of the Ecuadorean Government. Similar assistance is provided to other government institutions dealing with drug abuse prevention.

The Defense Attache Office is on the third floor of the Chancery (telephone 230–720). The US Military Liaison Office (USMLO), located on the second floor, coordinates and administers US programs of military assistance (telephone 548–000, extensions 280, 290, and 293).

The Peace Corps is located at Leonidas Plaza 138 (telephones 232–957 and 232–958), within 2 blocks of the Embassy. The Peace Corps has been in Ecuador since 1962. More than 200 Volunteers work throughout Ecuador, engaging in such varied projects as agricultural production, rural health, small business development, and education. It is the largest Peace Corps contingent in the Western Hemisphere.

Arriving personnel are usually met at the airport by the CLO coordinator and a representative of their agency. If you are not met, you can take a taxi to any of the addresses above for 80–100 sucres (about $2.50–$3). If you plan to arrive first in Guayaquil, you should directly inform both the Consulate General and the Quito agency of your arrival time. The AID executive officer writes to all AID personnel as soon as their assignments to Ecuador are confirmed.

Housing

Temporary Quarters

The Embassy has two apartments for new arrivals. These are fully equipped and are available for up to 90 days. Families are given preference over couples and single employees. The Hotel Los Alpes, a family-run inn half a block from the Chancery, is often used to accommodate new arrivals. The Hotel Colon and the Hotel Quito are international tourist-class hotels. The privately owned Hotel Embassy, 6 blocks from the Chancery, offers rooms with limited cooking facilities. During summer months, single personnel and couples without children should expect to stay in hotels upon arrival. Pets may be kept at Mission transient apartments, at Los Alpes, and at the Hotel Embassy. For those families wishing to move into permanent quarters prior to the arrival of their household goods, GSO has a limited amount of temporary furniture and household supplies (linens, kitchen equipment, etc.) available for loan.

Permanent Housing

Government-owned quarters are available for the Ambassador and the agricultural attache. The Ambassador's residence is a 19-room Spanish-style home with traditional furniture. Located in a 9-acre private park on the edge of a ridge in the east side of Quito, it has a view of the broad Tumbaco Valley and snowcapped Cayambe Volcano.

The agricultural attache's residence is a modern two-story, four-bedroom home.

Government-leased quarters are available for the DCM, the PAO, the IAGS Project Director, the Marine Guard NCOIC, and the Marine Guards. All others arrange for privately leased quarters. The Mission is studying the feasibility of instituting government leasing for all American personnel.

Quito has houses and apartments that range in style from elegant colonial to ultramodern. Rents are often higher than in the US, but are negotiable. Several real estate agents take the time to show many houses, but

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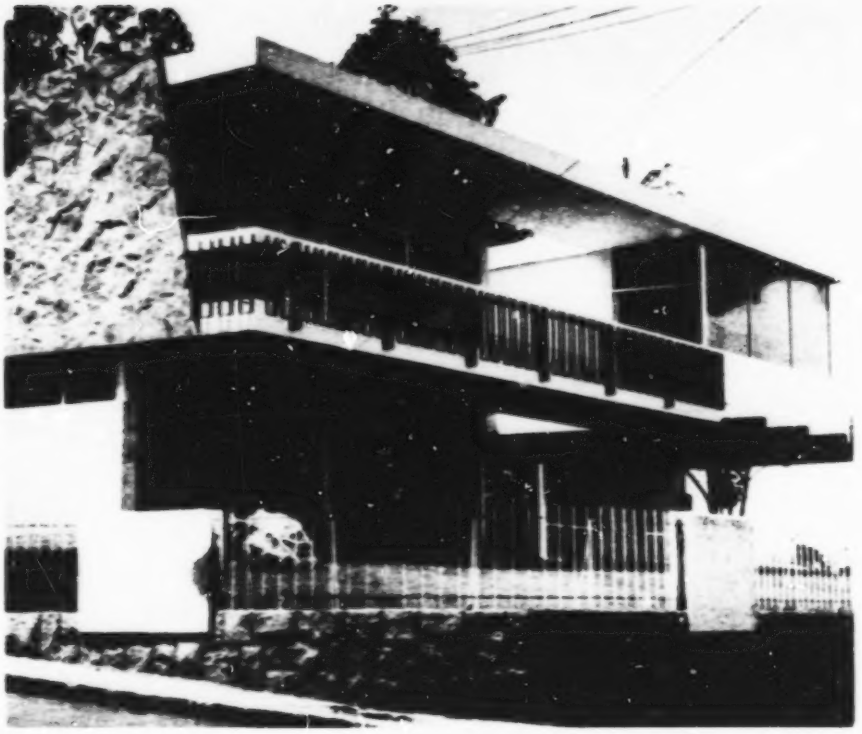
patience may be necessary to find quarters priced within the living quarters allowance. Some new arrivals have found housing through the extensive offerings in classified advertisements in local papers.

Houses usually have small yards. They ordinarily have three or four bedrooms, with two or more bathrooms. A room is usually available for a live-in maid. Many of Quito's newer houses are splitlevel or multilevel. Duplexes and apartments typically have two or three bedrooms and servants quarters; they may be easier to find and less expensive than detached houses. All houses have walls or fences around the property, and lower windows often have protective metal grillwork. Apartment buildings usually have porters or guards. The Embassy security office surveys new quarters and may suggest minor modifications to improve security.



A typical modern home in Quito.

Furnishings

Furnished houses and apartments are difficult to find. Quito is not a furnished post for State and USIS personnel. A stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer, and electric heater are provided to all State and USIS personnel for the duration of their tours.

Government furnishings are provided to AID direct-hire personnel. They normally receive the following furnishings for their quarters, in keeping with the size limitations specified in the housing standards: stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer, dinette set, rugs for living room and dining room, sofa and chairs, two electric heaters, bookcase, coffee table, end tables, floor and table lamps, dining room set, single and double beds with innerspring mattresses and box springs, bedspreads, pillows, dressers with mirrors, chests of drawers, and nightstands.

Personnel of other agencies should write their respective offices for information.

The Mission is studying the feasibility of instituting a program of government-provided furnishings for all Mission personnel.

Unless informed otherwise, employees should not bring their own major appliances, since appliances are imported in their names. This does not apply to freezers, since the Mission does not provide them. Bring small appliances, kitchenware, and household gadgets, as they are expensive or unavailable.

A limited supply of furniture and appliances (beds, chairs, dining tables, chests of drawers, night tables, lamps, etc.) is available on a loan basis for temporarily furnishing quarters until personal household goods arrive. Several Welcome Kits are available; these contain dishes, glassware, cutlery, pots and pans, bed and bath linens, an iron, a toaster, and a mixer. The post will not otherwise provide supplemental furnishings to those who have received authorization for full shipment of household effects.

At present, persons departing post can sell their used appliances locally for the original purchase price. Dryers may be difficult to sell because of the high cost of electricity.

You will generally be able to use whatever furniture you might have in the US. Curtains and rugs do not come with houses or apartments; the cool nights in Quito make these desirable. Good wool and cotton rugs are available locally, most of them handmade; they can be made to order. Rugs of all types are relatively expensive Bring shower curtains and bath ma sets with rubber backing.

Large windows are common. Houses may have windows of several different sizes, so that you will have to adapt or alter curtains you now own.

Curtain fabric is available locally, but ordering from the US through APO is less expensive. Since a window can be as large as 9 feet high and 36 feet long, you should wait to measure before buying fabric. The least expensive local curtain fabrics are made of rough-woven wool and cotton, and they cost about $2 per "vara" (33 inches) or yard. AID personnel are provided with an adequate drapery and curtain allowance.

Fine furniture can be made to order in Ecuador, although quality work is important since the wood must be properly seasoned. Construction of upholstered furniture is not recommended. Inexpensive recovering and reupholstering is done here, but good quality fabrics are expensive, and the selection is limited. Good quality furniture repair is available.

Utilities and Equipment

In the dry season, water pressure and supply may be low, and in some areas the water may be interrupted on an irregular schedule for hours at a time. Most homes have reservoir tanks, pumps, and electric water heaters.

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Houses and apartments have modern plumbing. Because of long waits for new phones, rent a house or apartment with a telephone already installed. Bring an extra phone with you, if you wish. Public phone booths are scarce.

Residences are not normally equipped with kitchen appliances. Although a freezer is not essential, it is useful; if your shipping allowance permits, bring one. No freezers are provided by the Mission to State and USIS personnel. Personnel who are not authorized to receive washers and dryers on loan should bring them. Washing machines that fill on a float rather than electric-timer principle have the advantage of operating even in times of low water pressure. Some families have found a dishwasher useful.

Many homes have parquet floors, and a floor-polisher is useful. The IPS (Individual Purchasing Service) has one which can be rented for a nominal fee, although this may prove inconvenient.

Electric current is the same as in the US: 110v, 60 cycles, with 220v available for stoves and dryers. Do not rent a home without 220v triple-phase current for appliances. Some new homes have no light fixtures or inadequate fixtures, and the tenant must purchase and install lighting. Although available, all types of electrical fixtures are expensive locally.

Homes in Quito have no central heating, and evenings can be quite chilly. Some houses are colder than others; those with eastern and western exposure benefit from the strong equatorial sunshine. Many people have found electric heaters useful both in bedrooms and bathrooms. Most residences have fireplaces, but these do not heat an entire residence. Persons sensitive to the cold will find electric heaters and electric blankets useful. Some persons have humidifiers or vaporizers.

Lawn furniture is useful during the day, but evenings are too cool to sit outdoors. Gardeners do not charge high prices, and most provide their own equipment except for a hose. If you like to garden, you may wish to bring equipment.

Card tables and chairs (from GSO) and drinking glasses (from IPS) can be borrowed.

Food

The Embassy has no commissary, but IPS is available. Wine, liquor, cigarettes, and a limited supply of food items are stocked. Although a wide variety of food items is available in Ecuador, including items imported from the US and Europe, certain American food goods are difficult to find or very expensive. Personnel may wish to bring some of these in their household effects; supplies can also be mailed via APO. Among items that personnel have found useful are: baby food, disposable diapers, powdered milk, household cleaning items, fabric softener, typically American canned goods, paper towels, toilet paper, facial tissues, spices, pet food, cat litter, cosmetics, shampoo, sunscreen lotions, hypoallergenic products, hair spray, aluminum foil, wax paper, super glue, personal hygiene supplies, canned nuts, and any specialty items such as peanut butter, olives, pickles, and raisins. US Government regulations prohibit the shipping of alcoholic beverages or cigarettes with household effects.

Milk from La Avelina, Vita Leche, and La Carolina dairies is pasteurized and comes in disposable paper cartons or plastic bags. Heavy cream is sold by the same producers. A variety of cheeses is available, several brands of ice cream are considered safe, and good yogurt is available. Excellent pastry and a variety of types of bread can be purchased in Quito.

La Favorita is the largest supermarket and has several branches. These are well-stocked, and many common US goods are available, usually at relatively high prices. Other supermarkets and delicatessens are in town, some of which offer excellent quality foodstuffs.

Santa Clara, La Floresta, and Inaquito are the most frequently visited municipal markets, offering fruits, vegetables, flowers, and meat, including fresh and frozen seafood. Avocados, artichokes, bananas, pineapples, papayas, and many other tropical and semitropical products are available in abundance year round.

Steak costs $1.00–$1.50 per pound. Both American and Ecuadorean cuts are available, though meat may be tough and unaged. Some families use meat tenderizer or marinades; cooking meat in a crock pot or pressure cooker may help. Lamb is adequate, pork is good, and ham is good but expensive. Chicken is widely available and may be bought already roasted, but it is more expensive than beef. Excellent veal can be found. Seafood is good and is available frozen and fresh.

Clothing

Light- to medium-weight clothing is used throughout the year. Because temperatures vary during the course of the day, sweaters, jackets, or raincoats are useful. In general, you will be able to use almost anything in your wardrobe except for your heaviest winter clothing.

Sports clothing should include bathing suits. Bring summer clothing for trips to lower altitudes.

Excellent leather and suede coats for men and women may be made to order in Ecuador.

European-type lasts are used on readymade shoes. These are quite stylish, but many Americans cannot wear them. Boots and shoes of good quality leather can be made to order, but patience and time are necessary to get the desired result.

Men. Light- to medium-weight suits are worn all year. Sports coats, sweaters, slacks, and long-sleeved sports shirts are useful for informal and casual gatherings. A raincoat with a zip-in lining is useful on chilly evenings. An umbrella is highly recommended. Business and professional men do not wear hats except when watching sports events or other outdoor activities. A brimmed hat can be bought locally. Suits in light colors are not worn in the evening.

If officers or spouses have formal wear, they should bring it. White dinner jackets are not worn. All kinds of formal wear can be rented if needed.

Good tailoring is available.

Women. Because of the changes in temperature throughout the day, women have found that clothing with the "layered look" is the most useful. Pantsuits, slacks, skirts, blouses, and sweaters are popular for daytime, as are suits and dresses of synthetic materials or light-weight wool. Informal and casual clothes are frequently worn at evening gatherings.

Rainwear is needed, and a light- or medium-weight coat, stole, or cape for evenings is necessary. Embroidered capes and stoles, as well as other types of sweaters and stoles, are available locally.

Both long and short dresses are worn. Long skirts and evening pants are popular. Several formal gowns are recommended for senior officers or senior officers' wives, and at least one is needed for junior officers or junior officers' wives and female employees. Dresses with jackets, sleeves, or stoles are good choices for chilly evenings. Synthetic fabrics and wools are popular.

Dressmakers are available. Many women bring fabric with them; others have it sent or buy it locally.

Hats are not worn, except for those that protect from the sun. Brimmed sun hats can be bought locally.

Children. Light- to medium-weight clothes are the rule. Sweaters are used and can be bought locally. Leotards and tights, knee socks, and jeans are popular items. Bring raincoats and boots. Shoes should be brought, a few pairs in slightly larger sizes. Warm pajamas or nightgowns, bathrobes, and slippers are recommended for older children, and sleepers with feet for younger ones.

La Compania is one of many old churches in Quito.

Supplies and Services

Supplies

The Embassy medical unit has a selection of drugs, and local pharmacies are well supplied. All personnel should verify prescriptions with the Embassy nurse.

If you plan to sew or use a dressmaker's services, bring a supply of sewing accessories, especially threads and zippers. A wide range of fabrics is available at varying prices, but imported fabrics are expensive. Good quality woolens and synthetics are manufactured locally.

Bring basic tools, as well as any hobby and do-it-yourself equipment. Batteries of all sizes are available but may be older and lower in power than those sold in the US.

Stationery, quality envelopes, greeting cards, wrapping paper, and ribbon are scarce and expensive.

Dinner candles are expensive. Large and small paper napkins are available although the quality is only fair. Cotton napkins and place mats, some hand embroidered, are sold.

Children's toys are expensive in Quito. Bring toys for your children and for other children's birthday parties. Bring lunch boxes for kindergarten and elementary school-age children.

Basic Services

Parts for common electrical appliances, electronic products, and cars are often available but expensive. Parts ordered from the US take a long time to arrive, and if sent airfreight they may spend more than a month awaiting customs clearance.

Women's doubleknit suits and jackets, and sweaters of synthetic fabrics for men, women, and children may be bought readymade or made to order in several factories.

Two drycleaning chains, La Quimica and Martinizing, do acceptable work.

Quito has many hairdressers and barbershops doing work of varying quality. Those most frequently used by Americans are the shops in the Quito and Colon Hotels; a number of other establishments receive high marks from personnel. Prices are much lower than in the US.

Domestic Help

Maids, cooks, gardeners, laundresses, seamstresses, and nursemaids are available for reasonable wages. Personnel usually prefer live-in maids for security reasons. Burglaries of unoccupied houses are common.

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A combination maid-cook is generally desirable for a single person or couple without children and is paid S/2,500–S/3,000 a month. A laundress and perhaps a gardener are sometimes hired once a week, each earning between S/200 and S/300 a day. Families with children may wish to have two full-time employees.

Under Ecuadorean law and Embassy regulations, domestic employees must be covered by Ecuadorean Social Security. Stringent laws cover employment and termination. These regulations are included in orientation material for new arrivals and should be read and followed carefully. Forms for Ecuadorean Social Security are available at the Embassy.

In addition to a salary, the domestic employee receives a 13th, 14th, and 15th month salary as bonuses. Some employees are also eligible for cost of living compensation and/or a transportation bonus. Although the employee is required to pay a portion of the monthly Social Security payments, most personnel pay the entire amount for their servants. By law, servants are entitled to 1 day off every 2 weeks, but in practice they receive a day off each week. Employers provide uniforms.

Religious Activities

Ecuador is primarily Catholic, and Quito is the seat of an Archbishopric. About 70 Catholic churches in the city serve Spanish-speaking congregations. An English-language service is held in the Dominican Chapel each Sunday morning.

Jewish services in Spanish and Hebrew are offered each Friday evening and Saturday morning at the Beneficiencia Israelita.

The community provides a number of Protestant activities and services. Both the Advent Lutheran and St. Nicholas Episcopal Churches have English-language services. The Lutheran Church has a Sunday school and discussion groups twice a month. The First Baptist Church has English services, a Sunday school, and a special program for teenagers on Sunday night.

The English Fellowship Church, which is interdenominational, is sponsored by the World Radio Missionary Fellowship, which runs radio station HCJB and Voz Andes hospital. They have English-language services, a Sunday school, and a teen group program.

The Seventh-Day Adventists offer services on Saturday morning and Sunday evening and operate the Clinica Americana. Jehovah's Witnesses also have weekly services. A local branch of the Mormon Church holds services each Sunday and Tuesday.

Education

Dependent Education

At Post. Quito has many public and private primary schools and secondary schools. Cotopaxi Academy, Colegio Americano, and Alliance Academy are private schools usually preferred by Americans in Quito. The first two receive limited grant support from the US Government. Alliance Academy provides educational facilities to the children of Protestant missionaries from Quito as well as those from other parts of Latin America. The educational allowance is sufficient to cover tuition at any of the schools.

Alliance Academy includes kindergarten through grade 12 with a school year that runs from August to May. Of some 500 students, 60% are children of missionaries from many different missions. Children from other international families are accepted on a space-available basis. The Christian Philosophy of Education is the educational focus of the school. Daily Bible classes and weekly chapels are an integral and required part of the curriculum. The basic doctrinal position adhered to by nearly all denominations forms the basis for the Bible classes.

English is the language of instruction and Spanish classes are required for all students. The basic subjects are similar to those in most US schools, with electives offered including woodworking, art, typing, home economics, photography, shorthand, and yearbook publication. Advanced placement courses are offered in math, English, and Spanish. Computer math and computer programing are also offered. The school has three fully equipped science laboratories. The school is well-supplied with learning materials, including a secondary school library, elementary library, and an audiovisual center. Library holdings include about 35,000 volumes, 800 films, 2,000 filmstrips, and videotaping facilities. The Spanish Education Department teaches English as a second language and has programs for the gifted as well as for the mentally handicapped. The school conducts a full and varied sports and extracurricular program which includes an extensive music program with chorus, band, and orchestra.

The Alliance Academy is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is a member of the Southern Association of Independent Schools, the Association of Christian Schools International, and the Association of American Schools of South America.

Colegio Americano is a private coeducational school offering an educational program from prekindergarten through grade 12 for students of all nationalities, and also a Junior College for secretarial and business management training. The school follows the traditional Ecuadorean school year, which runs from October through July on a trimester basis.

The curriculum is divided into an international section offering coursework similar to that of US general academic, college-preparatory, public schools, and a national section offering subjects required of Ecuadorean schools.

Instruction is in both English and Spanish in both sections. Courses in art and music are also taught. The school is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and by the Ecuadorean Ministry of Education. A comprehensive Learning Disabilities Program from prekindergarten through grade 12 is offered, as well as guidance counseling and college counseling for those wishing to attend university in the US. Both English and Spanish are offered as second languages.

Cotopaxi Academy International is a private, cooperative, American nonsectarian school offering prekindergarten (for children from the age of 3½) through grade 12. The school year is from August to May. Some 600 students attend the school; 40% are American, 28% are Ecuadorean, and 32% are of other nationalities. The school is staffed by teachers certified in the US. Classes are limited to 20 students. The school is affiliated with the Universities of Alabama, Ken-

tucky, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania for programs for student teaching interns; it is accredited by and affiliated with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and offers the International Baccalaureat. Instruction is in English. Both Spanish and English are taught as second languages.

In addition to the traditional academic subjects, classes are offered in art, chorus, band, physical education, computers, drama, French, German, and advanced college preparation. Standard US texts, teaching materials, and tests are used. A full-time guidance counselor is on the staff. Programs for mentally retarded or physically handicapped children are available from prekindergarten through grade 8; the school also offers a program at these levels for children with learning disabilities. The staff includes a remedial reading teacher. For children in higher grades who have special problems, consult the school and post prior to arrival.

Special Educational Opportunities

The Central University, the Catholic University, and the National Polytechnic School offer academic instruction at the college level. Faculties of law, economics, engineering, and philosophy and letters exist in both the Central and Catholic Universities. The Central University also has faculties of medicine, architecture, dentistry, and general studies; it has departments of natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities. The Polytechnic School offers courses in electrical and chemical engineering and nuclear science. All classes are taught in Spanish.

Catholic University offers special 6-week intensive courses in Spanish for about $60. The course consists of 2 hours of class and 1 hour of audio laboratory Monday through Friday. Many American family members take the course.

The National School of Fine Arts is associated with the Central University. For a small fee, adults can take lessons in painting and sculpture.

Various well-known local artists accept students of all ages for private classes. Several resident Americans also give lessons.

The National Conservatory of Music accepts students for voice training and instruction in musical instruments, especially for piano and violin. Students attending the schools normally used by the American community may receive instruction in a variety of instruments. The student should bring his or her own musical instrument, although the schools rent smaller instruments.

The School of Education of the University of Alabama offers courses which may be counted toward degrees from that institution. Information may be obtained through any of the three American schools.

Several private museums in Quito have impressive collections of paintings, archeological objects, and historical manuscripts. The National Museum of History has a noteworthy manuscript collection. The Casa de la Cultura often sponsors exhibits and performances of local artists. The National Museum of Colonial Art is in Quito. A number of well-known artists show in local galleries.

The private studio and museum of Guayasamin, a noted Ecuadorean artist, may be visited. In addition to the artist's own work, the gallery has an outstanding collection of pre-Columbian artifacts.

The outstanding museum in Quito is in the Central Bank. Divided into separate archeological and colonial exhibits, the museum shows only first-quality, carefully selected pieces organized into a clear, well-designed arrangement. Tours in several languages may be arranged, and the museum offers an English-language film describing the country's history and archeology. Both foreign and national artists are presented in special exhibits during the year.

Post Orientation Program

New arrivals and their dependents are oriented to the Embassy's functions by the CLO coordinator. Newcomers are introduced to each office and agency of the Mission and are provided with a comprehensive orientation kit of Mission policies and notices, a city guide, a map, and other helpful information. CLO has organized a system of "sponsor families" for newcomers; the immediate supervisor also helps newcomers settle into life in Quito.

The post Spanish-language program offers daily classes at the Embassy, subject to the availability of funds. All eligible employees and their adult dependents are encouraged to attend.

Recreation and Social Life

Sports

Soccer is Quito's most popular sport. Games are played year round at the Atahualpa (Olympic) stadium, with occasional visiting teams from other countries. Each December, a series of bullfights is held in Quito, where some of the world's leading bullfighters perform during their Latin American tours.

A roller skating rink and squash courts are available. Quito has a bowling alley, and teams have been organized in the American community. Volleyball is very popular; Ecuadoreans play a three-person variation of the game. Softball is played on Sunday mornings at the Colegio Americano. Basketball is a fairly active league sport and some Americans participate on local teams. Local school basketball games are well attended. Local parks are fairly well kept and very much used, especially on weekends. A tennis court at the Ambassador's residence is available to Mission personnel.

Those interested in outdoor sports and other activities will never lack for opportunity in Ecuador. Include all equipment in your household effects.

Touring and Outdoor Activities

Almost every corner of this country offers exploration. Anyone planning to take advantage of all possibilities should do so only in a jeep or four-wheel-drive vehicle. Most sightseeing can be done on long weekends.

Less than an hour's drive to the north of Quito is the equatorial monument at the "Mitad del Mundo," marking the division between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Two hours from Quito is Otavalo (pop. 25,000), with its colorful Saturday morning Indian market. Close to Otavalo are the towns of Cotacachi and San Antonio de Ibarra, known for leatherwork and woodcarving.

About 3 hours by car south of Quito on the Pan American Highway is Ambato (pop. 70,000), which has an annual festival of fruits and flowers. The region of Ambato is known for its rug factories. Southeast of Ambato is the secluded and peaceful town of Banos (pop. 10,000), perched on the easternmost edge of the Andean

plateau near the Tungurahua Volcano. Banos, like a number of other resort towns in the mountains, is known for its thermal springs.

Trips can be made by road or by plane into the Oriente and the jungle in which the Jivaro and Auca Indians live. The low-lying area is full of orchids and is a pleasant contrast to Quito's altitude. Several interesting frontier-like towns and opportunities for river canoe trips are available.

In the southern part of the country is Cuenca (pop. 100,000), Ecuador's fourth largest and most picturesque city, known for its artisan work and handwoven rugs and woolens. The province of Loja, in the southernmost part of Ecuador, is known for the town of Vilcabamba, whose residents are famous for their longevity.

West of Quito, about 3 hours by car down the Andean slope, is Santo Domingo de los Colorados (pop. 21,000), known for the Colorado Indians, who traditionally color their hair and skin with natural pigments. The area offers a wide variety of tropical fruits and other products. Further down this road, about 6–8 hours by car from Quito, is Guayaquil (pop. 900,000), the nation's largest city. Up and down the coast are beaches, some highly urbanized, which are available for a pleasant reprieve from Quito's altitude.

The Galapagos Islands, 600 miles off the coast, are world-famous for their wildlife. In recent years Ecuador has taken great care to preserve the flora and fauna of the islands, licensing and controlling the tourist industry which flourishes there. A proper tour of the islands takes at least a week; ships operating in the tourist trade range from converted fishing sloops with room for no more than six passengers, to luxuriously appointed cruise vessels offering all the comforts of a large hotel. Many Embassy personnel take advantage of the specially priced week-long tour organized each year by the Diplomatic Association of Quito.

Several private clubs are available in and around Quito, including some in the nearby Los Chillos Valley which offer tennis, swimming, golf, boating, skating, etc. Fees for joining these private clubs range from $600 to $1,000 plus monthly fees of from $10 to $30.

The tennis court at the Ambassador's residence is open to US Mission personnel and their guests. The Ecuador and Municipal Tennis Clubs are used as well.

Quito and its environs have several places for swimming. Swimming memberships are available at the Hotels Colon and Quito. You can join the Girasoles Club or the Fuente de Juventud, an indoor health spa. Near Tumbaco are the swimming pool and picnic area of Cunuyacu, where the entrance fee is minimal. Several pools are in the Valle de los Chillos, south of Quito. Two clubs in the Valle, the Castillo de Amaguana and El Prado, offer swimming and many outdoor activities.

Transient membership in the Hunting and Fishing Club (Club Nacional de Caza y Pesca) is available without charge, and monthly dues are low. A new clubhouse and an excellent shooting range are on the club grounds.

Fishing enthusiasts can enjoy excellent freshwater and deep sea fishing in Ecuador. Off the coast, deep sea tackle is needed for the abundant marlin, tuna, dorado, and other sea species. Good stream and lake trout fishing areas are 2 hours from Quito.

Good dove shooting may be found around Quito, and partridges may be hunted in areas several hours away from the city by car. Deer hunting can be done in areas 5–10 hours from the capital. Ammunition of .22 caliber and 12, 16, or 20 gage is available here, but all types are expensive. Guns must be registered. Advice and assistance in registration may be obtained from the Embassy or AID, as appropriate. See also Firearms and Ammunition.

A riding club with reasonable initiation and monthly fees is available. Buying and maintaining a horse are much less expensive than in the US. Non-Ecuadorean members are eligible to compete in annual riding events. Lessons are available.

Mountain climbing, hiking, and camping are popular. Most of the mountains are not technically difficult, but the altitude, ranging from 14,000 to 20,000 feet, can cause physical problems. Insulated climbing boots can be made here at a reasonable cost. Americans may join any of several climbing clubs. No one skis here; the snow-covered mountains are steep and laced with crevasses.

The Quito YMCA, which is close to the Embassy, offers lessons and exhibitions in judo and karate as well as other activities.

Bicycling is difficult in Quito because of poor road conditions, erratic drivers, and steep slopes.

A hang-gliding group is popular. Flying lessons are available.

Ecuador is a paradise for the amateur photographer. Black-and-white, Kodachrome, and Ektachrome color film can be processed locally within about 5 days, but quality may be poor. Most Mission personnel have film processed in the US via APO. Although the purchasing service stocks a supply of various types of film, bring extra film with you.

Entertainment

Quito has more than a dozen comfortable cinemas which show films in their original languages with Spanish subtitles. At least half the films are American, and major releases will arrive in Quito usually within a year of their premiere in the US. The Cine Colon is known for the high quality of its programing, and it presents several festivals of foreign films each year. The Casa de la Cultura also programs foreign film series in conjunction with various embassies.

The Teatro Nacional Sucre is the site of most important musical and artistic events. The National Symphony Orchestra offers an annual series of concerts, often with guest artists and conductors. The theater is active in Quito, with several amateur and semiprofessional groups presenting Latin American works. The Pichincha Playhouse, an English-language amateur group, presents one or two plays a year.

Many talented groups of Ecuadorean musicians offer concerts and perform in the late-night folk music houses. The music of the Andes is especially known for its use of pipes, guitars, percussion, and the "charango," a mandolin-like instrument fashioned from the body of an armadillo.

Each December a series of bullfights is held, featuring some of the world's leading bullfighters. Quito has a growing number of discotheques and nightclubs, most of which are small. Elaborate floor shows and large orchestras are rare, although Quito is on

the circuit for touring Latin American musical spectaculars.

The casinos in the Chalet Suisse and Quito and Colon Hotels have slot machines and roulette, blackjack, and dice tables.

Quito has a good variety of restaurants featuring Ecuadorean, French, Italian, German, Chinese, and Spanish cuisine. Restaurant prices are quite reasonable. Wine, however, is imported and overpriced. Quito now has a number of American-style fast-food restaurants.

Quito, Guayaquil, and Cuenca have annual "festival day" celebrations with fireworks and dancing in the streets on the last nights.

Social Activities

Among Americans. About 5,000 Americans live in Ecuador; they are equally divided between Quito and the rest of the country. No formal organizations exist exclusively for Americans.

International Contacts. Many opportunities exist for Americans to meet and work with Ecuadoreans and foreign nationals. Quito has 45 resident and 15 nonresident embassies. Membership in private clubs will facilitate contact with professional and other influential Quito residents. Several women's clubs devote themselves to charitable bazaars and teas. The American and British women's organization works with a girls' home, a thrift shop, and other philanthropic activities.

Women officers or wives of officers on the official diplomatic list may join the Damas Diplomaticas as active members. Other Embassy women may join as associate members.

The Ecuadorean Canine Association sponsors dog shows, registers purebreds, and is involved in other activities. Membership is open to all who wish to join. A Consular Corps group and a Diplomatic Association are also active.

The Women's Christian Fellowship group has monthly meetings and occasionally sponsors trips and other activities.

The Ecuadorean-American Chamber of Commerce has a large and growing membership, including many prominent Ecuadoreans and resident US business representatives. Each month the organization sponsors a luncheon with a well-known speaker.

All personnel and dependents can participate in cultural activities such as art exhibits, folkloric dancing, archeological tours, lectures, and other events. The Rotary and Lions Clubs are active.

Cotopaxi Academy has active Boy and Girl Scout troops. School children are involved in school-related sports and cultural events.

Official Functions

Nature of Functions

Senior personnel on the diplomatic list are involved in the usual number and types of diplomatic functions. Other personnel are involved less often.

Standards of Social Conduct

Newcomers and spouses are introduced to the Ambassador and DCM within a few days of arrival, usually by their immediate supervisors. Appointments may be made through the Ambassador's protocol secretary.

Mission personnel should consult with their supervisors concerning current policy on other formal calls. Since diplomatic and consular officers are announced to the Foreign Ministry by note, cards are not dropped in Quito.

Calling cards of acceptable quality may be printed here, but engraving is not available. Officers may use 50–100 cards per year. Some spouses have separate cards.

Special Information

Military Personnel. General information about Quito in this report is applicable in all respects to officers and enlisted personnel assigned to the Office of the Defense Attache, the US Military Liaison Office, and the Inter-American Geodetic Survey mission. Military personnel will need summer uniforms. For specific uniform requirements, consult the office to which you are assigned.

The DAO has some appliances and furniture available to assigned personnel. Correspond with the DAO for details.

Insurance. The high incidence of theft in American households and on shipping docks has made personal property insurance an important consideration for newly assigned personnel. Arrange for insurance before leaving the US. The Military Personnel and Civilian Employees Claims Act of 1964 provides basic protection and should be investigated (see 3 FAM 690).

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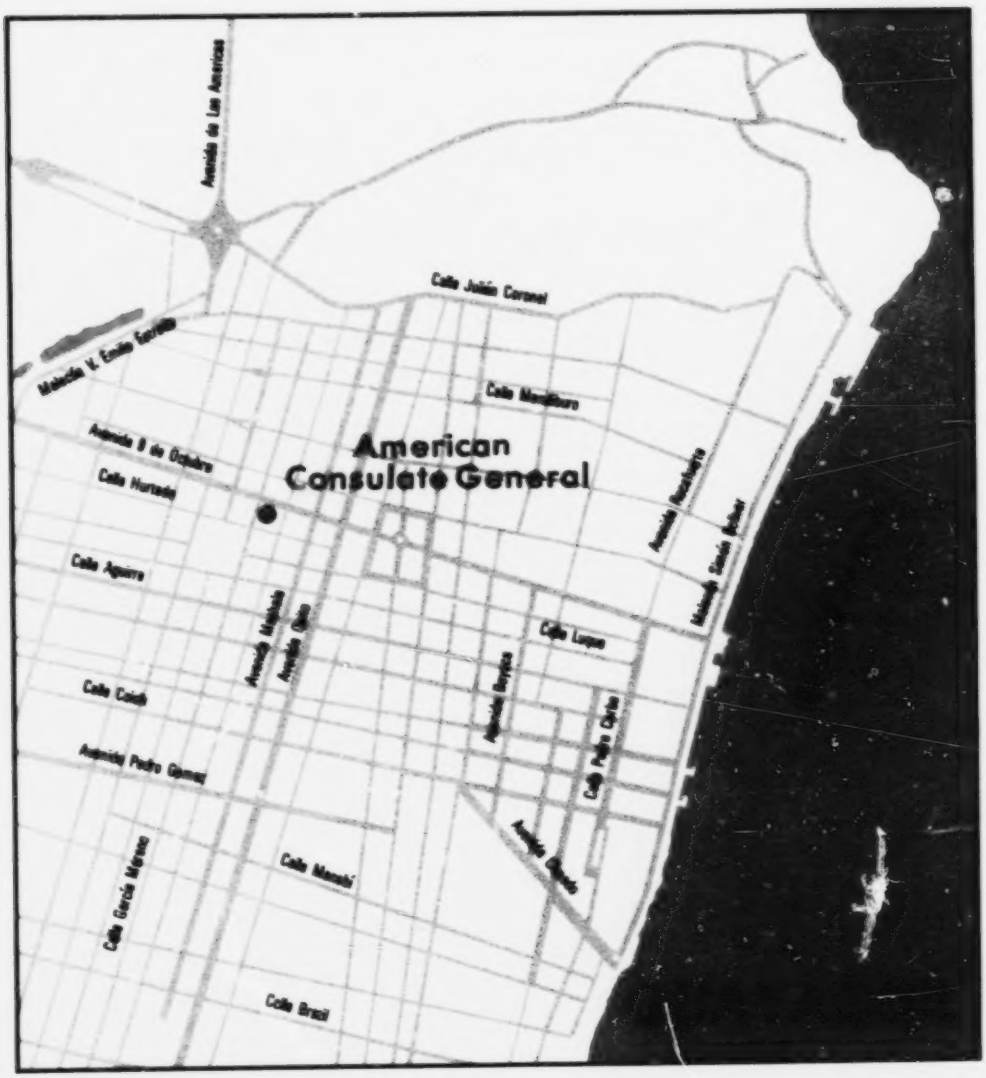


Consulate General

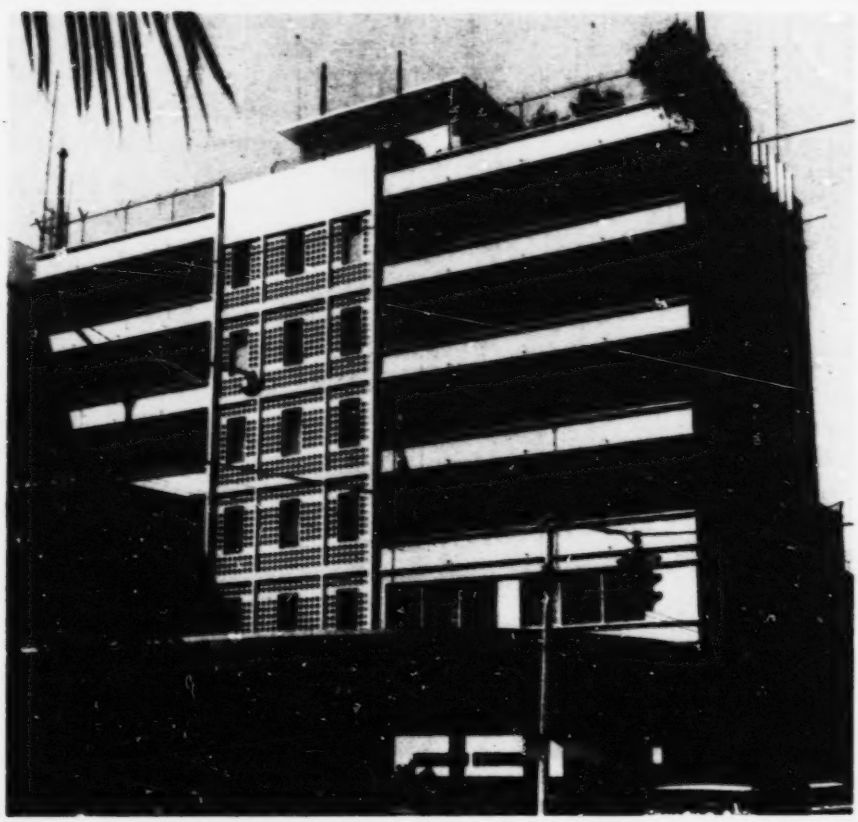
Guayaquil

This sea level city, properly named Santiago de Guayaquil, was founded in 1538. Tropical, bustling, and noisy, Guayaquil is located on the Guayas River and boasts a large deepwater seaport on the saltwater estuary about 5 miles south of the center of town. A few small hills rise abruptly in the northern residential section; the rest of the city is flat. The city has a population of some 900,000 and is growing rapidly, with extensive slums expanding on stilts over tidal estuaries. The city also has modern residential areas of attractive walled homes and gardens and many multistory apartments and condominium buildings. Temperatures are generally pleasant during the dry season from June to December, and are no worse than Washington, DC, in midsummer during the remainder of the year. Mosquitoes are common during the rainy season, when hordes of crickets also invade parts of the city.

The business center is becoming increasingly modern, though unpainted cane buildings still exist on some streets side by side with modern high rise structures. Many of the streets are in deplorable condition through most of the year despite patchwork repairs.

Guayaquil's vital commercial activity and frequently turbulent political life can help make for an interesting tour, though street crime and burglaries have become a serious problem. The American community of several hundred recent and long-time residents is well integrated with a much larger number of dual nationals, third-country citizens, and Ecuadoreans who were educated or worked in the US. Post personnel with good Spanish have little difficulty in expanding their friendships into the generally open and hospitable community at large.

The Consulate General, Guayaquil, is located on the fringe of the downtown area.



The Post and Its Administration

The Consulate General, located on the corner of 9 de Octubre and Garcia Moreno on the fringe of the downtown area (telephone 511–570), is open 5 days a week from 8 am to 5 pm. The air-conditioned building has 10 furnished apartments on the upper floors for American personnel. Personnel also have access to a Health Unit and an apartment converted into a Employees' Recreation Center with bar, billiards, and terrace which can be used for parties. Consulate General, DEA, and FCS offices are located on the first three floors. USIS offices are located in a five-story Binational Center Building located at Urdaneta and Cordova (telephone 301–498), about a mile from the Consulate General and near the downtown area's center.

The international airport is about 1½ miles from the Consulate General. Taxis are readily available, but new personnel will be met if advance notification is received at the post.

No regularly scheduled US flag passenger ship service exists, but passage can be obtained if requested well in advance on scheduled US flag freighters, some of which carry up to 100 passengers (Delta Lines).

Housing

Temporary Quarters

Personnel are usually housed in the Consulate General building's fully furnished transient apartments until permanent housing is found. The Oro Verde, Ramada, Continental, la Moneda, and Grand Guayaquil Hotels are new and centrally air-conditioned

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with double rooms from $50. The Humboldt, Boulevard, and Omni are also adequate and have lower rates. These hotels have restaurants, private baths, and telephones. The new Oro Verde Hotel is adjacent to the Consulate General and offers special rates to US Government personnel who make their reservations through the Consulate General.

Permanent Housing

A 4-bedroom, 4½-bath, furnished residence for the principal officer is government owned. Though on a small lot, it is modern and imaginatively designed with a small swimming pool with bath house as well as 3 rooms with 1½ baths for servants. The BPAO has a 4-bedroom government-leased and -furnished house with a small screened pool.

The Consulate General building has one 4-bedroom, one 3-bedroom, five 2-bedroom, two 1-bedroom, and one efficiency apartments. Five of these apartments are reserved for permanent housing, and five for transients. None of these apartments has facilities for a live-in servant. Each apartment has a separate adjustable air-conditioning unit, electric stove with oven, kitchen cabinets, electric refrigerator, all basic furniture, curtains, venetian blinds, rugs, and lamps. All permanently assigned apartments have freezers. When assigned to these apartments or to the principal officer or BPAO residences, only a limited shipment of household effects is authorized.

Personnel without children usually live in the Consulate General building. They may wish to bring additional items such as shelves and decorative objects. Automatic washers and dryers on each of the top three floors are available for use by all occupants.

The living and dining room furniture in most apartments is in good condition and generally attractive. Dining tables seat six comfortably. The Consulate General building has no good play area for children. Couples with post-infant or school-age children are therefore not assigned these apartments as permanent housing unless they indicate a preference for these quarters. In that case, the fenced roof area can be used for supervised play.

Welcome Kits are available for personnel in transient status. These kits include dinnerware, stainless flatware, cookware, iron and ironing board, blankets, sheets, pillows, and pillow cases. These items are normally available only until the arrival of your unaccompanied airfreight. Ship airfreight to arrive before or as soon as possible after arrival.

Section chiefs and families with children usually rent individual houses or apartments under private lease. Well-located, attractive, unfurnished houses are available but often take up to 3 months to find. Houses and apartments are normally rented absolutely bare; i.e., no light fixtures, venetian blinds, or drapes. Adequacy of water supply, including cistern or storage tank and pump, should be verified prior to renting. The Consulate General, in a combined effort with the Embassy, tries to insure that housing allowances are adequate, but inflating rents cause most families to be out-of-pocket for extended periods of time after their arrival.

Furnishings

As indicated above, all apartments in the Consulate General building have government furnishings. It is not necessary for personnel to bring any furniture except what is needed for decoration or other use as required by personal taste. The principal officer's residence also has china, silverware, cooking utensils, linens, etc.

Overstuffed items may mildew if they are not in air-conditioned rooms during the wet season (January to May). Termites, moths, and crickets are also a problem. Wrought iron, marble, wicker, and hardwood furniture may be made to order, but is often expensive. Furthermore, workers seldom are dependable, and quality is frequently inferior. The buyer must beware of wooden items bought here since wood may not be properly dried and tends to crack when moved to a different climate.

Utilities and Equipment

City water piped to houses is chlorinated and pure when it leaves the plant but is considered contaminated because of the old pipes and their proximity to sewer lines. Drinking water for those living outside the Consulate General building is generally boiled or brought from the Consulate General which has its own purification system. The tenant usually provides an electric water heater in rented houses and sometimes in apartments. Some areas of the city have frequent low pressure or water shortages because of distribution problems.

The consul general's residence has a small swimming pool and bathhouse.

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US standard two-wire, 110v, 60-cycle current is available for lights and appliances, including refrigerators and freezers. Water heaters, electric stoves, and air-conditioners require US standard three-wire, 220v–240v, 60-cycle current, which is also available. Bring voltage regulators for specialized electronic equipment such as stereos and home minicomputers.

The post provides the following appliances to all eligible personnel: electric stove, refrigerator, automatic washer, electric dryer, freezer, and sufficient room air-conditioners for the living room and all occupied bedrooms. In addition to the appliances furnished by the post, at least one electric fan for the kitchen is very useful.

Many Ecuadoreans shop at outdoor markets, even though supermarkets are available.

Food

Many tropical fruits and vegetables are available year round and others in season. Some temperate zone fruits and vegetables are brought to Guayaquil from the cool, high mountain valleys. Prices are reasonable, but rise during the rainy season.

Fish, including fresh tuna, shrimp, crab, and oyster, are in good supply most of the time and are slightly less expensive than in the US. Quality varies. Domestic canned tuna is available at about the same price as in the US. Beef and pork, somewhat limited as to cuts, are almost always available at prices often below those in the US, although generally of an inferior quality. Broiler chickens and turkeys, raised locally, are available, but at higher prices than in the US. Shortages of dairy products are periodic when efforts are made to raise the controlled price. Milk may be diluted and is not always safe, though good quality powdered milk is generally available, usually at higher prices than in the US. Some personnel bring powdered skim milk from the US. Butter and cheese are of satisfactory quality. All canned and imported foods are expensive. Local coffee and chocolate may be of poor quality. Baker's unsweetened chocolate is not available. Soft drinks and beer are relatively cheap, once you obtain the bottles. Rule of thumb: Anything nonspoilable that you like, think you will need, or use often, bring in quantity—be it peanut butter, spices, cereal, special cleaning aids, etc.

Membership in the Embassy purchasing service is available to US Government personnel in Guayaquil upon payment of a membership deposit, with orders being shipped by truck from Quito.

Guayaquil has several good restaurants, as well as fast food hamburger eateries and ice cream shops at prices similar to those in the Washington, DC, area. Sanitation in these places is almost never up to US standards, however, and salads, raw oysters, and ice often cause stomach and intestinal problems.

Clothing

Men. Bring a dinner jacket (generally a dark jacket is used) if you already have one and at least two light-weight suits. Men's clothing can be made here and tailors range from very reasonable to expensive. Sports coats and slacks are also worn in Guayaquil. A couple of dark conservative suits and some sporty outfits will fill most needs. Officers dealing constantly with the public, such as the principal officer and visa officers, wear coat and tie at work in accord with standard custom for local business dress. Other officers and support staff often wear the local "guayabera" sport shirts to the office, except for special appointments.

Women. Bring washable cottons, synthetics, and cotton blends. Seamstresses here make all types of clothing. Officers dealing constantly with the public, such as the principal officer and visa officers, wear appropriate dress in accord with standard custom for local business attire. For cocktail parties, dinners, and dances, the latest fashions, including pantsuits, are worn. Long-sleeved cocktail dresses for evening are more comfortable for much of the year. Hats are not worn. Sundresses and sandals are useful. Bring an ample supply of underwear

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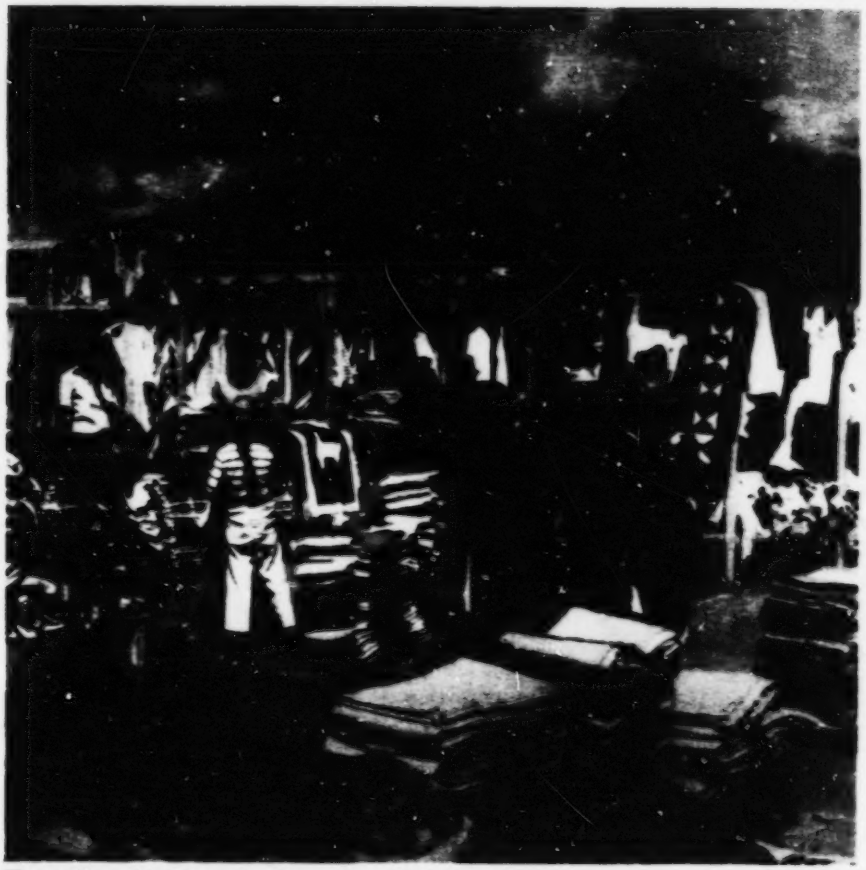

The weekly market in Otavalo offers a wide variety of handicrafts.

for everyone in the family. Cotton rather than synthetic lingerie is better in the Tropics.

Stoles, sweaters, and scarves are used at night during the cooler season. Bring one or two autumn or winter outfits and party clothes for visits to Quito, Cuenca, and other mountain areas. Sweaters and woolen clothing are needed at that altitude, and warm slacks are useful for trips to the mountains. You will probably want to buy some of the beautiful Ecuadorean ponchos while you are here.

Children. Bring a good supply of children's cotton clothing, shoes, and sneakers. Children need blue jeans, warm jackets, and sweaters for the mountains. Girl's uniforms for the Colegio Americano will have to be made.

For the Inter-American Academy, bring boy's uniforms consisting of blue jeans and white shirts. Bring at least one pair of black shoes as part of the uniform. Shoes are made locally, but if a child has a special size or need, bring them.

Supplies and Services

Supplies

Most US and European toiletries, cosmetics, cigarettes, medicines, and other such items are available, but expensive. Aluminum foil, plastic wrap, and paper products (toilet paper, disposable diapers, etc.) are more expensive than in the US and of inferior quality. Waxed paper and cooking bags are unavailable. Bring an extra supply of toys and gifts for children. A charcoal grill is useful. Bring entertainment equipment. Betamax and VHS videotape clubs rent locally, and several staff members have videorecorders.

Basic Services

The city has adequate shoe repair and drycleaning, and fair radio, phonograph, and TV repair shops. Repair shops for most makes of automobiles exist, but services are from fair to unreliable.

A number of good tailors are available to make or alter clothing. Local hairdressers are quite good and reasonably priced.

Domestic Help

Single persons usually find they need at least a part-time maid, and many families have more than one servant. Few servants are trained when hired. Good dependable ones are difficult to find. By law they are given 15 days paid vacation annually and a day off every other week, but almost all employers give 1 day off each week. All must be covered by social security, with 5.35% of the salary paid by the employee and 8.35% by the employer. Many employers pay the entire social security payment. Including the obligatory 13th, 14th, and 15th month salaries and social security, servant wages will run from $120 a month for laundress or general maid to $200 a month for a cook, plus food and uniform. For further information see Quito, Domestic Help.

Religious Activities

The prevalent faith is Roman Catholic. One Catholic church offers an English Mass. Several Protestant denominations are represented in Guayaquil, but only the Guayaquil English Fellowship (an interdenominational group) offers services in English. Several branches of the Mormon church are here, with services in Spanish.

Education

Dependent Education

Educational facilities through 8th grade are generally adequate. Some personnel board high school students at the Alliance Academy in Quito, with the students often commuting to Guayaquil for the weekend on the ½-hour-long jet flight.

The Colegio Americano, kindergarten through grade 12, has a student enrollment of 1,268. It has a bilingual program advancing 1 year as the students in it advance, which by

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1981–82 extended from kindergarten through grade 7. The school year is May through January and operates from a spacious campus a few kilometers north of the urban areas. Other than bilingual program classes, the prevalent language of this school is Spanish. The former International Section (entirely English language) of the Colegio Americano split off in 1978 to form the Inter-American Academy. The Colegio Americano is accredited by the appropriate US regional association and by the Ecuadorean Ministry of Education.

The recently founded Inter-American Academy is located in Urdesa, only 15 minutes from the homes of most Americans. It has kindergarten through grade 12 and is the only English-speaking school in Guayaquil at the high school level. It has been informally accepted for accreditation by the appropriate US regional association, and formal accreditation is anticipated during 1982. Its degrees and credits are not recognized by the Ecuadorean Ministry of Education since it does not follow the Ministry's curriculum or school calendar. The 1981–82 student population is about 160. It has limited athletic and laboratory facilities. Beginning in 1982, the school year will start in September so as to be synchronous with the standard US school year.

Escuela Moderna, in the residential section of Urdesa, is a primary school through grade 6 directed by an Ecuadorean graduate of Columbia University's School of Education. Studies are 50% in English (social studies, language, art, sciences, and arithmetic) and 50% in Spanish (required Ecuadorean studies prescribed by the Ministry of Education). The school year is May to January.

In addition to these schools, several Roman Catholic private schools have good records, but classes are taught entirely in Spanish. A German school can be attended by US dependents who know German. But the school is expensive and usually has a long waiting list.

Several nursery schools are available. Several Spanish-language universities exist, but the largest (University of Guayaquil) is frequently disrupted by politically motivated disturbances, including occasional gun battles between rival groups of students.

Recreation and Social Life

Sports

Swimming, tennis, basketball, soccer, baseball, volleyball, jogging, and golf are enjoyed in the Guayaquil area. Lessons are available. Swimming pools are available at the Tennis Club and the Country Club, but membership is quite expensive. The pool at the Oro Verde Hotel adjacent to the Consulate General is now available on a club basis to Consulate General personnel at $400 a year for families and $160 a year for singles. A municipal olympic-sized public pool is nearby with restricted hours.

The Clubs Nacional and Garibaldi are moderately priced, less expensive alternatives with tennis and swimming facilities. Membership in the Garibaldi is normally limited to persons of Italian ancestry, but "guest" memberships can sometimes be obtained if you have two club sponsors.

A few families have small private pools. Bring all equipment with you.

The Mountain Climbing Association in Quito draws members from Guayaquil.

Two beaches, Playas (1–1½ hours by road) and Salinas (2–2½ hours away) offer a cooler climate with swimming, fishing, and boating.

Touring and Outdoor Activities

Playas, the nearest beach, is 60 miles southwest of Guayaquil and can be reached by car in 1½ hours over an asphalt road. Playas has a small, marginally adequate hotel on a wide, sandy beach with a sheltered picnic ground.

Furnished houses a few hundred yards from the beach are sometimes available for rent. Beaches are generally uncrowded from May to December. The sun and the ocean currents must be treated with respect. As the strong equatorial sunshine can cause severe sunburn even after short exposure and the ocean currents are very strong in the area, bathers should exercise particular care.

Salinas, a resort about 85 miles west of Guayaquil, can also be reached by asphalt road in about 2 hours. The town is larger and has more hotels, pensions, restaurants, and clubs than Playas. Sailing and boating facilities are good. Good beaches also are found north along the coast, and an attractive hotel is nearby on the south coast. Salinas offers some of the best sport fishing (marlin and sailfish) in the world. Charters are expensive, but many find it feasible to go in groups. Good snorkeling is found among coral formations in bays north of Salinas.

Over a long weekend, an excursion to the Sierra (mountains) becomes practical and offers a pleasant change of both climate and culture. The nearest cities in the Sierra are Riobamba and Cuenca, each about a 4-hour drive from Guayaquil. The road is subject to occasional landslides (especially during the rainy season) and fogbanks, but the trip offers spectacular views. A train trip to Quito is a widely known tourist attraction. The Autoferro, a bus on rails, leaves at 6 am and takes 12 hours.

Entertainment

Guayaquil has many movie theaters, some air-conditioned, which show fairly recent movies in English with Spanish subtitles.

Concerts and plays are occasionally given by traveling American, Asian, or European groups. A Binational Center (Centro Ecuatoriano-Norteamericano), with an air-conditioned auditorium for public gatherings and cultural presentations, offers to members a free lending library with more than 3,000 volumes. Its small membership fee offers access to special programs which include movies, speakers, courses, and other activities. Another English-language lending library is available to members (modest membership fee) at the Phoenix Club, a downtown facility with a British pub atmosphere for English-speaking clients.

Small but good collections of archeological antiquities are located in Casa de la Cultura, the Municipal Museum, and the Museum of the Banco del Pacifico. Several small art galleries have almost weekly exhibitions of artists from Ecuador and other Latin American countries. Amateur archeologists can find several good "digs" of the Americas' oldest ceramic culture not too far from the city.

Guayaquil's Independence Day, October 9, is the most important local holiday. Indian festivals and markets can be seen all year by driving into the

Andes. Horse races with parimutual betting are held on Sundays throughout the year. Polo games and soccer games are held in season, and three hotels operate casinos. Bullfights are held twice a year.

Social Activities

Among Americans. About 2,500 US citizens live in Guayaquil, providing a good opportunity for socializing with other Americans. The American Society has monthly dinners and several dances during the year.

International Contacts. Opportunities exist for Americans to meet and work with Ecuadoreans and foreign nationals. The American-British Club is now the ABC International Women's Club. The Consular Corps is open to all consuls and vice consuls for a monthly fee of about $12. The club also has a women's auxiliary. Many Ecuadoreans have attended schools in the US and welcome association with Americans. Except for strictly protocol affairs, personnel reciprocate and entertain. Ecuadoreans in the coastal area (including Guayaquil) are open and hospitable.

Official Functions

Nature of Functions

Most consular personnel are involved in some official functions. Dark business suit or appropriate dress is customary for such occasions unless other attire is specified. For weddings after 10 pm (a traditional hour), tuxedo or appropriate dress is customary.

Standards of Social Conduct

After arrival, consular personnel should ask their immediate superior for current policy on formal calls. The Consulate General has a pamphlet to clarify and simplify social procedures at post. This pamphlet is included in the orientation kit given to all new arrivals.

The consul general may need about 500 cards for each tour; most other officers need about 200 each. The chief of the Consular Section and BPAO should bring 300–400 cards. Calling cards and invitation cards of an acceptable quality can be printed locally at reasonable prices. Engraved cards are not necessary.

Notes For Travelers

Getting to the Post

Several important guidelines must be followed when shipping cars, unaccompanied baggage, household effects, and airfreight to Ecuador. Surface shipments should be consigned as follows:

For Embassy personnel

American Embassy
Quito, Ecuador
For: (Name)
Via Guayaquil

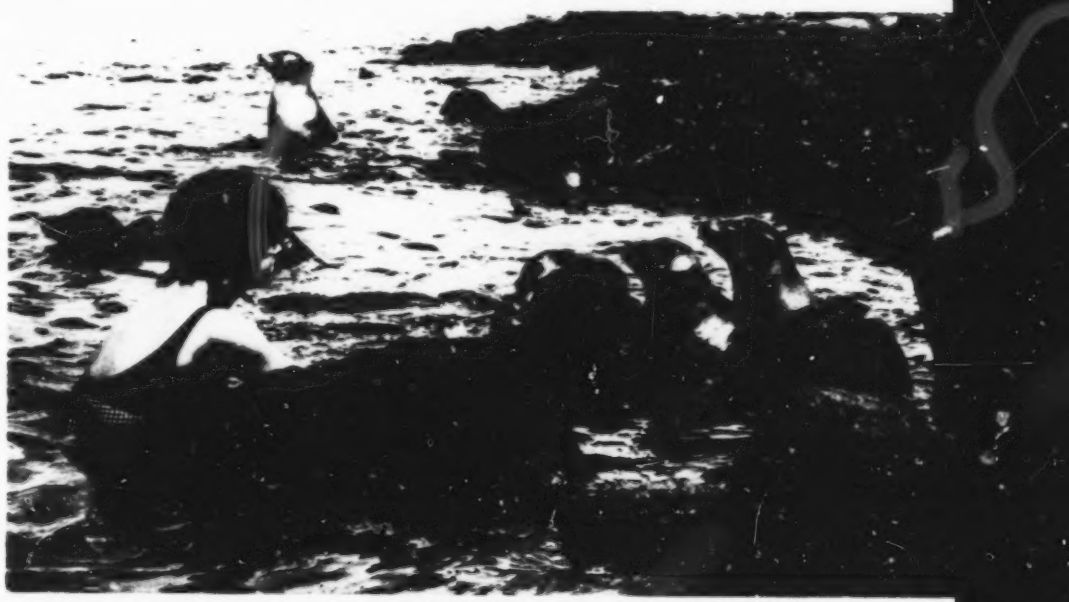
For USAID personnel (Quito)

USAID
c/o American Embassy
Quito, Ecuador
Via Guayaquil
(Name)

For Consulate General personnel

American Consulate General
Guayaquil, Ecuador
For: (Name)

Shipments expected to arrive by air should bear the same markings, but delete the label "Via Guayaquil."



The Galapagos Islands offer an amazing variety of wildlife.

Customs, Duties, and Passage

Customs and Duties

Customs officials normally do not inspect accompanied baggage belonging to diplomats arriving in Ecuador. If your arrival time is known, you will be met by the CLO coordinator, another American employee acting as a "sponsor," and a specialist to help with immigration and customs formalities.

Free entry of "used household effects" is permitted during the first 120 days after arrival. If effects arrive more than 120 days after the employee, the Embassy must seek special approval from the Foreign Ministry for their importation. Employees planning to take deferred home leave some time after arrival at post should keep in mind the 120-day restriction on free importation of unaccompanied effects.

Shipments of all sizes, including large steel or wooden liftvans, can be accommodated at all points of entry. Line wooden boxes used for small shipments with waterproof paper. Plastic and wooden liftvans should be plastic-lined and have well-protected roofs in case the vans are left uncovered. For the same reason, wrap individual items in plastic. Household effects and airfreight have suffered extensive water damage while awaiting transshipment or customs clearance. Some water damage has occurred because the Ecuadorean Customs Service stored shipments outside the crowded customs warehouses; at other times, damage appears to have occurred in other ports, including Miami.

Ecuadorean law and Mission regulations require that duty-free imports brought into Ecuador be for personal use only and that they not exceed reasonable needs. Whenever possible, packing lists and bills of lading should carry the heading "Used Household Effects." Major appliances and electronic equipment such as stereos are regarded with particular sensitivity by Ecuadorean authorities, and these items are limited by the Law on Diplomatic Privileges to one of each per family. Those receiving appliances on loan should not bring these items to post.

In order to obtain a duty-free decree for employees personal possessions—both unaccompanied airfreight and household effects—the Mission must submit a request to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Finances. Approval of this request now takes a full month, during which time the effects remain in storage at customs facilities. Ecuadorean regulations require that this request include complete details concerning the shipment, including consignor, consignee, weight, means of shipment, date of arrival, commercial invoices for any newly purchased items, and a **detailed** list of contents. If you can provide the post with copies of relevant documentation by mail through the APO address, preliminary arrangements can be set up. Hand-carry original documents to post. The Foreign Ministry will **not** accept requests for clearance before your arrival in Ecuador.

In addition to the duty-free importation of used household effects for the employee's initial settling in, the Ecuadorean Government grants a yearly importation allowance (cupo) to those Mission employees with

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diplomatic titles or their equivalents (in the case of AID employees). The dollar value of duty-free importations allowed varies according to the employee's rank and may be used for importation of items not imported as "used household effects" within the first 120 days at post. As of July 1982, cupo allowances for the first 12 months at post are as indicated in the box below.

For the second and each succeeding year, cupo allowances are about one-half of the dollar amounts listed above. Cupo may not be accumulated from year to year. The allowances are adjusted occasionally to allow for inflation.

Personnel who do not have cupo privileges must bring in all belongings with their initial shipment(s) of household effects or pay duty on items arriving more than 120 days after their entrance on duty. Duty may be more than 100% of CIF (cost, insurance, and freight) value.

The cupo system is used by the Embassy's Individual Purchasing Service (IPS) to import food, liquor, and cigarettes. All American employees may join the IPS by depositing a refundable fee of $100. Members with diplomatic cupo share part of their duty-free allowances with the IPS, so that IPS stock may be imported in their names.

The Ecuadorean Government permits the importation of one personal vehicle per employee, but this privilege is controlled by a system of duty-free allowances similar to that described above. No duty is charged if the vehicle imported by the employee does not exceed dollar limits set in accordance with the employee's rank. The value of the vehicle is the full purchase price, including all options, and this price **must** be corroborated by the commercial invoice (bill of sale). Ecuadorean customs officials maintain current price books for automobiles; a depreciation factor will be applied if the vehicle is more than 2 years old. Freight costs are not included in the calculation of the vehicle's value.

If the value of the vehicle is determined by customs authorities to exceed the employee's duty-free allowance, duty must be paid on the excess. The applicable tariff may be as much as 230%. The duty-free allowances for vehicles are revised from time to time to take inflation into account. Each employee will be informed of the current applicable allowance in the travel message (TM–2) sent from post.

Only one vehicle may be imported duty free; motorcycles count as vehicles. Ecuador has prohibited the importation of eight-cylinder passenger vehicles, except general purpose, four-wheel-drive vehicles such as jeeps. The post advises employees to respect this restriction.

As of July 1982, the following duty-free allowances were in effect for the importation of vehicles for use by Mission employees:

Category	POV Limitation
I	No limit; may import two POV's
II	$14,870
III	$13,860
IV	$12,840
V	$11,830
VI	$10,820
VII	$10,170

NOTE: Nondiplomatic personnel are accorded Category VII for the importation of POV's on the basis of reciprocity between the US and Ecuadorean Governments.

In order to complete the customs procedures for importing a vehicle, the post must have an original bill of sale or a dealer's invoice listing all options and giving the total value of the vehicle. This, along with the certificate of origin and the ocean bill of lading, must be submitted to the authorities. If the US despatch agent handles the shipment, he or she will obtain the certificate and the bill of lading, and forward them automatically to post. It is suggested that the bill of sale be hand-carried to post, not sent with effects. Ecuadorean authorities will **not** accept a title registration in lieu of the bill of sale.

Cars are shipped unboxed and may be driven to Quito from Guayaquil, though most employees find it more convenient to have them delivered by truck. All easily removable parts, such as floor mats, cigarette lighters, and outside mirrors, should be sent in household effects in order to avoid pilferage. Surface shipments of vehicles from the United States may take 2 months or more. Vehicles normally may be cleared and delivered within 3 weeks after arrival in port.

When a US despatch agent undertakes the shipping of the vehicle, full details about shipment (dates, countries, shipping companies involved, travel order number, appropriation number, etc.) should be provided for the agent's use, and copies should be sent to the Embassy or to USAID, as

Category	Title/Rank	First Year Cupo
I	Ambassador	$9,000
II	Accredited Charge d'Affaires, military attaches with rank of general, members of military missions with rank of general	$7,950
III	Counselors, military attaches, colonels, lieutenant colonels, consuls general	$6,900
IV	First secretaries, majors, first class consuls	$6,000
V	Second secretaries, captains, consuls	$5,100
VI	Third secretaries; civil, commercial, cultural, and press attaches and other specialists; lieutenants; second lieutenants; assistants to military attaches; and vice consuls	$4,200
VII	Foreign assistants to military attaches ranking below a second lieutenant	$3,600

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appropriate. Employees should specify that vehicles be shipped to Guayaquil, not to Manta.

Passage

Eastern Airlines, which replaced Braniff Airlines on May 18, 1982, is expected to continue flying to Quito from New York, Washington, DC, and Miami; flights may stop en route in Panama, Bogota, or Guayaquil. Personnel should have a valid passport and visa before arriving in the country. Ecuadorean officials grant tourist visas at the airport.

Immigration officials keep the international arrival card on file and return a carbon copy with the traveler's passport. Since you will have to surrender this copy upon leaving Ecuador, staple it to the last page of your passport. If you lose it, you will face a delay of 24 hours or more in obtaining a duplicate.

Pets

Pets may be brought to Ecuador without quarantine if certain requirements are met. You must present a certificate from a registered veterinarian stating that your pet is in good health and that the animal has had vaccinations for rabies, leptospirosis, and distemper within the previous year. This certificate must be dated no more than 3 weeks previous to the date of arrival. You should bring the original certificate(s) and a notarized copy. If the pet arrives on the same flight, you can clear it immediately; if not, you should retain one set of papers and turn the other over to GSO so that the necessary arrangements can be made. Pets should not precede personnel to post. It is recommended that reservations be confirmed all the way through for the shipping of animals.

Firearms and Ammunition

Only the following nonautomatic firearms and ammunition may be brought to Ecuador: one pistol, .22 caliber; two rifles (.22 caliber) and/or shotguns; 1,000 rounds of ammunition for the aforementioned items.

Firearms and ammunition may be shipped (but not mailed) to post without an import license, provided they are consigned to US personnel for their personal use and not for resale. A local permit must be obtained for the weapon in Ecuador. The post will assist you with this procedure.

To bring additional firearms and ammunition into the country, you must seek advance permission from the Chief of Mission. When you ship additional firearms and ammunition from the US, forward copies of your correspondence with the Chief of Mission and a completed Form DSP–5 (Export Application) to the Office of Munitions Control (PM/MC), Department of State, Washington, DC 20520. The application should indicate all firearms and ammunition to be shipped to post. The export license issued by PM/MC must be given at time of shipment to the US despatch agent, who in turn will surrender it and other shipping documents to US Customs.

If you receive the above permission to ship firearms between foreign countries only, no license from PM/MC is necessary.

No Department of State license is required if you ship only shotguns (with barrels 18 inches and longer) and shotgun ammunition in excess of the quantities listed. You must, however, comply with the Chief of Mission's determination and with the export regulations of the Office of Export Control, US Department of Commerce.

Currency, Banking, and Weights and Measures

The Ecuadorean unit of currency is the sucre, designated either S/or $, and issued in bills of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500, and 1,000. One sucre is divided into 100 centavos. Coins are minted in denominations of 20 centavos, 50 centavos, and 1 sucre. The term "real" is used colloquially to indicate a unit of 10 centavos; 20 centavos is "dos reales."

After several years of relative stability on the exchange market, the sucre began gradually to lose value against the US dollar in 1981. At year's end, the exchange rate was US$1 = S/33.

The metric system is used for both weights and measures, although food is often measured in libras (pounds). The onza (ounce) and the vara (yard) may be used in commerce. In hardware stores, gages of pipes and fittings are listed in US measurements; the 3/4 size, for example, is three-fourths of an inch.

Taxes, Exchange, and Sale of Property

Restrictions

Ecuador has no currency controls, and the sucre is traded freely at any of a number of banks and exchange houses.

Ecuadorean law and Mission regulations require personnel to maintain third-party liability insurance for personal vehicles, and the Mission offers a group plan underwritten by a local firm. Comprehensive and collision insurance may be obtained locally, although at least two US companies will provide policies which are valid in Ecuador.

If departing employees wish to sell their cars in country, this must be done through IPS. The employee may be reimbursed up to the original purchase price of the vehicle, plus any capital improvements made on it; the excess profits must be donated to charity. The Foreign Ministry must give permission for the sale of the vehicle. A vehicle admitted into the country duty free cannot be sold tax free until it has been in Ecuador for 2 full years. If the owner is transferred before the end of 2 years but after the vehicle has been in country for a full year, the vehicle may be sold duty free. If the car has been in-country less than 1 year, it may be sold, but a prorated import duty is assessed according to the length of time it has been in Ecuador.

A license to fish anywhere in Ecuador costs about $5.

Ecuador has a direct sales tax of 5% which is collected on the sale of goods and services, except food items. Diplomatic personnel or diplomatic missions are not exempt from this tax. A 10% service charge is included on all restaurant bills, along with a 5% tax. It is not necessary to tip further, although an extra 5% is always appreciated.

A $5 airport tax is charged to all persons leaving Ecuador.

Facilities

Branches of Citibank and Bank of America are in Quito and Guayaquil.

All personnel should maintain accounts in US banks. Some find local sucre accounts useful. A local bank maintains an exchange service during morning hours in the Chancery, and you may cash personal checks, purchase sucres or sucre checks, and buy travelers checks.

Recommended Reading

These titles are provided as a general indication of the material published on this country. The Department of State does not endorse unofficial publications.

*Alban, Veronica, with photographs by Jean Claude Constant. *Los Andes Ecuatorianos*. Macalban Editores: Guayaquil, 1976. Parallel English text.

American University Foreign Area Studies. *Area Handbook for Ecuador*. US Government Printing Office: Washington, DC, 1976. Gives general background and covers all areas.

Blaksten, George I. *Ecuador: Constitution and Caudillos*. University of California Press: Los Angeles, 1951. A detailed study of Ecuadorean government and politics.

Blomber, Rolf, ed. *Ecuador*. Hugo Gerbers Forlag: Stockholm, 1953.

Bork, Albert William and Georg Maier. *Historical Dictionary of Ecuador*. Scarecrow Press: Metuchen, 1973. A panoramic view of the country from pre-Columbian days with the general political and social organization of the country, the principal zones of archeological investigation, and similar matters of general interest presented in a dictionary format with concise, informative paragraphs.

Brooks, John, ed. *The South American Handbook*. Trade and Travel Publications: England. Handy guide to all Latin American countries. Updated annually and fun to read.

Brooks, Rhoda and Earle. *The Barrios of Manta*. New American Library: New York, 1965. Written by and about Peace Corps Volunteers and conditions under which they worked in an Ecuadorean village.

*Bustamante, Edgar, ed. *Maravilloso Ecuador*. Circulo de Lectores: Quito, 1978. Essays by contemporary Ecuadorean writers, covering the country region by region. Color photographs.

*Cueva, Juan. *Ecuador*. Ediciones Libri Mundi: Quito, 1980. Color photographs with captions in Spanish, French, English, and German.

Di Capua, Constanza. *Colonial Quito*. Su Libreria: Quito, 1968.

Eichler, Arthur. *Ecuador: Snow Peaks and Jungles*. Thomas Y. Crowell Company: New York, 1955. Includes 165 pictures.

Elliot, Elizabeth. *The Savage, My Kinsman*. Harper and Brothers: New York, 1961. Deals with the primitive Auca tribe in the Oriente.

Fitch, John S. *The Military Coup d'Etat as a Political Process: Ecuador, 1948–1966*. Johns Hopkins University Press: Baltimore, 1977. General consideration of factors leading to coups, and specific details on postwar Ecuadorean politics.

*Gartelmann, K. D. *Ecuador*. Impresa Mariscal: Quito, 1975; rev. ed. 1979. Photographs. Text in Spanish, English, and German.

Hassaurek, Fredrick. *Four Years Among the Ecuadoreans*. Southern Illinois University Press: 1967. Edited from the 1867 edition written by the American Consul in Quito. An interesting commentary on Ecuador 100 years ago.

Hurtado Larrea, Osvaldo. *El Poder Politico en El Ecuador*. 4th ed. Ariel: Quito, 1981. Analysis made by Dr. Hurtado before his election to the vice presidency in 1979 and his ascension to the presidency of Ecuador in 1981.

Inter-American Development Bank. *Economic and Social Progress in Latin America*. Washington, DC, 1976.

Linke, Lilo. *Ecuador: Country of Contrasts*. 3d ed. Royal Institute of International Affairs: London, 1960. A broad study of Ecuador and an excellent basic reference.

Martz, John D. *Ecuador: Conflicting Political Culture and the Quest for Progress*. Allyn and Bacon: Boston, 1972. Political analysis.

McIntyre, Loren. "Ecuador: Low and Lofty Land Astride the Equator." National Geographic, Feb. 1968, pp. 259–298.

Meggers, Betty. *Ecuador*. Thomas and Hudson: London, 1966. An archeological study of the country and people.

Oxandaberro, Roura. *Ecuador: Art, Folklore, and Landscape*. Su Libreria: Quito, 1965.

Pan American Union. *Ecuador*. American Republics Series No. 9. Pan American Union: Washington, DC, 1960.

Porter, Eliot. *Galapagos: The Flow of Wildness*. Two vols. Sierra Club: San Francisco.

*Salvat, Juan and Eduardo Crespo, ed. *Arte Contemporaneo de Ecuador*. Salvat Editores Ecuatoriana S.A.: Quito, 1977. Amply illustrated text treating painting, sculpture, and handicrafts of 20th century Ecuador.

South American Travel Digest. *Ecuador: Center of the World*. Travel Digest, Inc.: Los Angeles, 1968. Concise pamphlet with pictures.

Thomsen, Moritz. *Living Poor: A Peace Corps Chronicle*. University of Washington Press: Seattle, 1969. An excellent book written about the author's experiences as a Peace Corps Volunteer during 4 years in Rio Verde, Ecuador.

Von Hagen, Victor Wolfgang. *Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands*. Univeristy of Oklahoma Press: Norman, 1949. Popularized history.

Zendegui, Guillermo de, ed. *Image of Ecuador*. Organization of American States: Washington, DC, September 1972. A well-written 24-page summary of Ecuador and its people.

Local Holidays

The following days have been designated public holidays by the Government of Ecuador:

New Year's Day	Jan. 1
Good Friday	Mar./Apr.
Labor Day	May 1
Battle of Pichincha	May 24
Bolivar's Birthday	July 24
Founding of Guayaquil	July 25 (Guayaquil only)
Independence Day	Aug. 10
Independence of Guayaquil	Oct. 9
Columbus Day	Oct. 12
All Souls' Day	Nov. 2
Independence of Cuenca	Nov. 3
Founding of Quito	Dec. 6 (Quito only)
Christmas Day	Dec. 25

*These publications were sent to M/FSI/FLO in December 1981 and are available to personnel assigned to Ecuador.

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